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ABSTRACT

As part of the Hispanic Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (1982-84), prevalences of marijuana, cocaine, inhalant, and sedative use were examined among Hispanic Americans, aged 12-74. This report analyzes data on 3,394 Mexican-Americans in the Southwest, 1,286 Puerto Ricans in the New York City area, and 555 Cuban-Americans in the Miami area, aged 12-44. For each drug category, prevalence of use in each population group is tabulated by age group, sex, language of interview, educational attainment, marital status, country of birth, family income, and poverty status. Cross-cultural comparisons show that Mexican-Americans and Puerto Ricans were equally more likely than Cuban-Americans to have ever used any of the selected drugs or to be current users. However, inhalants and sedatives were not widely used by any group. The pattern of similarity between Mexican-Americans and Puerto Ricans was disrupted by prevalences for cocaine use; Puerto Ricans were more than twice as likely as other respondents to be current or lifetime users. Respondents with a high school education or more were more likely than others to have ever used marijuana, cocaine, or sedatives; this relationship did not always hold true for current use. Higher prevalences of both current and lifetime drug use were generally associated with being male, single, and U.S.-born; preferring to speak English; and having family income above the poverty level. Appendices present sociodemographic variables and marijuana prevalences for Mexican-Americans and Puerto Ricans, aged 45-74; the survey instrument; and a glossary. Contains many data tables. (SV)

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ED 365 507

Use of Selected Drugs Among Hispanics: Mexican-Americans, Puerto Ricans, and Cuban-Americans

Findings from the Hispanic Health and Nutrition Examination Survey

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1. INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of the drug abuse component of the Hispanic Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (HHANES) which was conducted between 1982 and 1984 by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) in cooperation with the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) and other agencies. Data on the prevalence of marijuana, cocaine, inhalant and sedative[1] use were collected on 8,021 individuals from Hispanic households between the ages of 12 and 74 years.

This chapter contains several sections that present general and specific information on the history and development of the HHANES, the survey sample design, the data collection methodology, the subset of data analyzed in this report, data limitations, and the report format and data tabulations. Knowledge of this information is important in interpreting the results of this survey and, therefore, it is recommended that these sections be read carefully before proceeding to the chapters describing the results. Chapters 2, 3, 4, and 5 present data on the prevalence of marijuana, cocaine, inhalant, and sedative use, respectively, among Mexican-Americans, Puerto Ricans and Cuban-Americans aged 12 to 44 years. Chapter 6 is a discussion of the crosscultural aspects of the use of these four selected drugs. Three appendices follow Chapter 6; Appendix A presents data on the prevalence of marijuana use for Hispanics aged 45 to 74 years, Appendix B reproduces the survey instrument, and Appendix C is a glossary of terms.

Background and Purpose of HHANES

Since 1960, the NCHS has conducted periodic surveys which have included physical examinations and laboratory tests as part of the data collection methodology. Initially called the National Health Examination Survey (NHES), the name of this

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[1] For purposes of this report the phrases "sedative use", "use of sedatives" and "sedative users" refer to the nonmedical use of sedatives. Use of prescribed sedatives in accordance with a physician's directions or use of over-the-counter sedatives in a manner consistent with the product label are not included.

survey series was changed to the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) in 1970 when a nutrition component was added. The purpose of utilizing physical examinations and laboratory tests as part of the collection methodology is to determine the "prevalence of undiagnosed and nonmanifest disease" (NCHS 1985). The HHANES is the sixth survey in this series, following NHESs initiated in 1959, 1963 and 1966 and NHANESs initiated in 1971 and 1976.

Shortly after the fielding of the 1976 NHANES, the National Academy of Public Administration, under contract to NCHS, recommended that the Center consider a survey of one of the Nation's major subpopulations. Hispanic-Americans were selected after consideration of several subpopulations. Although previous surveys in the series had included Hispanic sample persons, the sample sizes were insufficient to produce reliable estimates of health status, particularly if the three major Hispanic subgroups--Mexican-Americans, Cuban-Americans and Puerto Ricans--were considered separately. The HHANES was designed to provide sufficient samples of each subgroup. Thus, the survey not only produces reliable estimates of health status for each subgroup but it also permits crosscultural comparisons within the broader Hispanic cultural context.

Sample Design

As indicated above, the HHANES was a probability-based survey of three distinct subgroups of a major U.S. minority group rather than of a national sample. The sampling methodology used complex, multistaged, stratified, clustered samples of defined populations. When weighted, the sample data represent the targeted population. For HHANES, the targeted population consisted of three groups of civilian noninstitutionalized persons aged 6 months to 74 years from three ". . . areas of the country that had a sufficient number or proportion of Hispanics to render it economically feasible to screen households and to operate an examination center over a 4- to 7-week time period" (NCHS 1985); they were: (1) Mexican-Americans residing in selected areas of Texas, California, Colorado, New Mexico and Arizona (hereafter referred to as the Southwest United States); (2) Cuban-Americans residing in Dade County (Miami), Florida; and (3) Puerto Ricans residing in the New York City area. Individuals 6 months to 19 years of age and 45 to 74 years of age were oversampled. Data were collected on Mexican-Americans beginning in July 1982 and

ending in December 1983, on Cuban-Americans beginning in January 1983 and ending in mid-May 1983, and on Puerto Ricans beginning in mid-May 1983 and ending in December 1984.

The sampling methodology[2] involved the following four stages of selection: (1) primary sampling units (PSUs) - counties or small groups of contiguous counties with a 1980 Hispanic population of at least 1,000; (2) segments - clusters of households within each PSU; (3) households within clusters; and, (4) eligible persons within households.

Primary sampling units were formed based on 1980 Hispanic census data; there were 193 PSUs in the Southwest, 16 PSUs in the New York City area and 1 PSU in Dade County, Florida. Each PSU had a probability of selection that was proportional to its population (except the Dade County PSU which was selected automatically). From these PSUs 14 were selected for the Southwest sample and 8 for the the New York City area sample. Segments were selected to achieve a minimum of 90 percent coverage of the eligible Hispanic population within each PSU (although this goal had to be relaxed in a few PSUs). Each household within a segment had an equal probability of being selected for a screening interview. The household screening interview identified eligible Hispanic-origin persons within each household

Individuals from selected households were eligible as sample persons if they were from an Hispanic family. A family was considered to be Hispanic if at least one member was of the Hispanic subgroup[3] appropriate to that sampling universe (i.e., Mexican-American in the Southwest, Puerto Rican in the New York City area, and Cuban-American in Dade County). Once a family was identified as Hispanic, more than one family member could be included in the sample, even if they were not Hispanic or were not from the Hispanic subgroup appropriate for the particular area. However, sample persons were classified as "Hispanic" only if they were from the subgroup appropriate to the sampling universe; all others were classified as "non-Hispanic", even if they were of Hispanic origin. Thus, for example, both a Puerto Rican

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[2] See NCHS 1985, Chapter 5 for a detailed description of the sample design methodology.

[3] Hispanic ethnicity was self-reported.

wife and her Mexican-American husband could be sample persons in the Southwest, but only the husband would be classified as "Hispanic" on the HHANES data files.

The sampling universe for Mexican-Americans (193 PSUs) included approximately 84 percent of the 1980 U.S. Mexican-American population and approximately 87 percent of the 1980 Mexican-American population within the 5 targeted states (after exclusion of low Hispanic density areas within the Southwest PSUs).

The sampling universe for Puerto Ricans (16 PSUs) included approximately 59 percent of the 1980 U.S. Puerto Rican population and approximately 90 percent of the 1980 Puerto Rican population of the New York City area (after exclusion of low Hispanic density areas within the New York City area PSUs).

The sampling universe for Cuban-Americans (1 PSU) included approximately 57 percent of the 1980 U.S. Cuban-American population and approximately 96 percent of the 1980 Cuban-American population of Dade County (after exclusion of low Hispanic density areas of Dade County - the only PSU in this sampling universe).

When combined, the three HHANES sampling universes included approximately 76 percent of the 1980 U.S. Hispanic-origin population. However, all estimates from HHANES data apply only to the specific universes from which the samples were drawn.

Data Collection Methodology

The survey was divided into two phases: an interview conducted in the respondent's home and a subsequent examination conducted in a mobile examination center. Although all sampled persons were requested to participate in both phases of the survey, a portion of those who were interviewed did not participate in the examination. The drug abuse questions were asked as a part of the examination. Only sample persons 12 to 74 years of age were administered the drug abuse questionnaire.

All survey instruments were printed in English and Spanish language versions, with each sample person choosing between the two. In most cases the interviews and examinations were conducted by bilingual personnel; when this was not possible, a translator was present. Respondents were informed that all data would remain confidential.

The household interviews provided, in addition to sociodemographic data,:

> ". . . data on perceived heath care needs relative to the target conditions as well as . . . data on general patterns of health care utilization, health practices, barriers to the use of care, health insurance coverage, and other such factors that may relate to the health status of the Hispanic population (NCHS 1985)."

The examination and laboratory components collected data on diabetes, hearing, immunization, tuberculosis, vision, kidney diseases, liver diseases, alcohol consumption, drug abuse, depression, diet, body size and composition, coronary heart disease, hypertension and other nutrition-related conditions. These data ". . .provide an objective assessment of unmet health care needs relative to specific target conditions" (NCHS 1985). The examinations were conducted by medical professionals in fully equipped mobile examination centers.

The drug abuse data were collected from respondents aged 12 to 74 years as part of a questionnaire instrument called the Adult Sample Person Supplement. In addition to the drug questions the Supplement contained sections on pesticide exposure, tobacco use, reproductive history, alcohol consumption and depression. As indicated previously, the Supplement was administered in the mobile examination center as part of the health and nutrition examinations. The drug abuse questions, sixteen in number, were supplied by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) and were designed to permit estimation of prevalence of use of marijuana, cocaine, inhalants and sedatives among the sampled Hispanic populations. Sample persons 12 to 74 years of age were asked the questions on sedatives and marijuana while only those 12 to 44 years of age were asked the questions on inhalants and cocaine. Because of the sensitive nature of these questions, interviewers were instructed to remind respondents that their answers would remain confidential; privacy was ensured by the examination setting.

Subset of Data Analyzed in this Report

The data analyzed in this report were based only on Hispanic sample persons aged 12 to 44 years who participated in the examination phase of the survey. As indicated above, persons under 12 years of age were not asked the drug abuse questions, those aged 45 to 74 years were not asked questions on cocaine and inhalant use; they also reported very low rates of marijuana and sedative use. After exclusion of non-Hispanics and persons outside the 12 to 44 year age range, the sample sizes and examination response rates[4] for each subgroup of the drug abuse data were as follows:

- o Mexican-Americans — 3,394 sample persons examined of 4,548 eligible respondents identified in household interviews (74.6 percent)
- o Puerto Ricans — 1,286 sample persons examined of 1,734 eligible respondents identified in household interviews (74.2 percent).
- o Cuban-Americans — 555 sample persons examined of 911 eligible respondents identified in household interviews (61.0 percent)

The examination response rates for the Mexican-American and Puerto Rican samples were within the expected range for surveys of this kind. The rate for the Cuban-American sample, however, was below the expected range and, therefore, it might have adversely affected the reliability of the estimates for this sample.

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[4] The response rate is the value, expressed as a percent, of the number of sample persons actually examined and administered the drug questions divided by the number of eligible sample persons identified during the household screening interview phase of the survey. For a variety of reasons not everyone identified during the screening process was administered the drug questionnaire.

Data Limitations

As indicated previously, HHANES collected data on four selected drugs: marijuana, cocaine, inhalants, and sedatives. The four drugs studied in this report were selected because previous research indicated that they might be a special problem in Hispanic communities. Since the drugs surveyed exclude some commonly abused drugs, these data cannot provide a prevalence estimate of overall drug abuse among the sampled Hispanic populations.

Each of the four selected drugs was covered separately on the questionnaire. Consequently, it was not possible to analyze concomitant drug use. However, it was possible to determine whether one or more drugs had ever been abused during peoples' lifetime by analyzing the questions on the recency of use for all four drugs.

The HHANES drug abuse prevalence estimates should be considered to be conservative. In addition to possible underreporting, sample designs based on household residence, like HHANES, may miss subgroups which may have higher than average levels of drug abuse. For example, prison populations and persons with no fixed address may have higher than average levels of drug abuse. It should be noted, however, that for sample persons several steps were taken to insure participation and candor, including providing respondents with transportation to and from the examination centers, cash-payment incentives, and assurances of confidentiality.

The HHANES, as noted previously, was a complex probability-based sample drawn from three disparate regions of the United States. Accordingly, estimates for Hispanics on a national level cannot be obtained. On the contrary, the estimates produced from HHANES data apply only to the specific area (sampling universe) from which the sample was drawn. Also estimates for the three sampling universes cannot be disaggregated (for example, estimates from the Southwest sample for Texas only cannot be produced).

The number of Cuban-American sample persons reporting drug use were insufficient to produce prevalence estimates at levels of detail comparable with those shown for Mexican-Americans and Puerto Ricans. To compensate, classification

categories were combined in several instances, thus enabling the presentation of the Cuban-American drug abuse data.

As mentioned previously, the drug abuse data were collected over a period of two and a half years beginning in the Southwest in June 1982 and ending in the New York City area in December 1984. Consequently, it is possible that patterns and frequencies of drug abuse could have changed measurably over this period of time.

Report Format and Data Tabulation

Chapters 2 through 5 present selected data on lifetime and current use of marijuana, cocaine, inhalants, and sedatives, respectively, for Mexican-Americans, Puerto Ricans and Cuban-Americans aged 12 to 44 years. Chapter 6 is a discussion of the report findings and focuses on the observed sociodemographic and cross-cultural differentials. Appendix A contains the available data on lifetime and current use of marijuana for Mexican-Americans and Puerto Ricans aged 45 to 74 years (prevalence estimates for sedative use could not be obtained for Hispanic-Americans aged 45 to 74 years, and for marijuana use for Cuban-Americans aged 45 to 74 years because of the small number of sedative users among the 45 to 74 year old respondents from the three Hispanic populations, and marijuana users among the 45 to 74 year old respondents from the Cuban-American population). As indicated previously, the data in chapters 2 through 5 are limited to Hispanic sample persons 12 to 44 years of age for two reasons: (1) sample persons 45 to 74 years of age were not asked the questions on inhalants and cocaine, and (2) rates of use of sedatives and marijuana for sample persons 45 to 74 years of age were not sufficient to produce reliable estimates comparable to those of the 12 to 44 year olds. Appendix B reproduces the survey instrument. Appendix C is a glossary of terms.

For each of the four drugs, data were collected on (1) whether respondents had ever used (lifetime use) the drug, and (2) if so, when the most recent use was. In the tabulations, lifetime use is summarized in the dichotomous categories "ever used" and "never used." The second question, recency of use, is tabulated in the following three mutually exclusive categories:

past month use,
past year (but not past month) use, and
not past year use (more than a year ago).

In the tabulations, the summed percentages of these three categories equal the percentage of the "ever used" category. Data in the chapter on sedative use is limited to the ever used and the recency of use variables.

The categories within the recency of use variable for each drug were recoded to produce a third variable that indicated whether the respondent was a user of marijuana only, marijuana and one or more of the other three drugs, or one or more of the other three drugs only. This variable does not imply concomitant use, but rather indicates which drugs were used during an individual's lifetime. Tabulations for this variable are presented in the chapter on marijuana.

For marijuana, cocaine and inhalants, the respondent's age at first use was obtained. Inhalant users were asked to identify which specific substances they had used. Marijuana users were asked about their frequency of use in the past month and over their lifetime.

Tabulations of the drug abuse data are grouped according to several sociodemographic variables including sex, age, education, language of interview, marital status, income, poverty index, and country of birth. Table 1.1 presents the weighted percent distributions for these variables for Hispanics 12 to 44 years of age residing in the areas represented by the sample universe. The language of interview variable is the language in which the respondent chose to answer the interview questions; the respondent's language of choice is the best single-variable estimate of the degree of acculturation. For the education variable the levels of education "1-6" and "7-12" indicate individuals' highest grade attended (but not necessarily completed). For example, individuals categorized as having a "7-12" grade education include those who attended 12th grade but who did not complete this grade. The income variable is the respondent's total combined family income, a more accurate reflection of the respondent's economic resources than is personal income. The poverty index is the ratio of the midpoint of the income bracket reported for each family's total combined income to a poverty threshold calculated by the Bureau of the

Table 1.1 Weighted percent distribution of Hispanics 12 to 44 years of age by sociodemographic classification variables according to subpopulation: Southwest United States, New York City area, and Dade County, Florida, 1982-1984

	Subpopulation		
	Mexican-American (N = 3394)	Puerto Rican (N = 1286)	Cuban-American (N=555)
Age			
12-17	22.6	27.0	20.3
18-24	25.7	23.4	19.3
25-34	32.6	26.7	29.5
35-44	19.1	22.9	31.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Sex			
Male	51.6	40.6	46.1
Female	48.4	59.4	53.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Language of Interview			
English	68.1	61.4	26.9
Spanish	31.9	38.6	73.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Education[1]			
1- 6	20.6	6.4	8.2
7-12	32.8	42.3	27.7
High school graduate	24.6	28.8	27.1
At least some college	20.8	20.0	35.8
Unknown/No response	1.1	2.5	1.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Marital status			
Under 14	7.5	8.4	7.7
Married, spouse in household	49.8	29.8	48.2
Married, but now single[2]	9.5	16.5	12.3
Never married	32.8	44.4	31.2
Unknown/No response	0.4	1.0	0.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Country of birth			
Cuba	-	-	81.9
Mexico	32.5	-	-
Puerto Rico	+	50.7	0.7
United States	66.5	45.5	14.6
Other	0.4	1.1	1.4
Unknown/No response	0.6	2.8	1.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

See footnotes at end of table

Table 1.1 Weighted percent distribution of Hispanics 12 to 44 years of age by sociodemographic classification variables according to subpopulation: Southwest United States, New York City area, and Dade County, Florida, 1982-1984 - Continued

	Subpopulation		
	Mexican-American (N = 3394)	Puerto Rican (N = 1286)	Cuban-Amricans (N=555)
Total combined family income			
Under $10,000	24.3	36.3	21.2
$10,000-$14,999	17.0	16.3	15.2
$15,000-$19,999	16.5	14.0	14.3
$20,000-$24,999	9.0	5.7	10.6
$25,000-$34,999	14.4	10.4	12.8
$35,000and above	10.6	9.3	19.5
Unknown/No response	8.1	7.9	6.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Poverty index			
At or above poverty	65.1	53.5	72.2
Below poverty	26.7	38.7	21.3
Unknown/No response	8.1	7.7	6.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

[1] Hispanics 12 to 16 years of age are not included in this distribution.

[2] Category includes persons who are widowed, divorced, separated or married but whose spouse is not living in the household.

Note: Percentages are calculated with weights provided by NCHS.

Source: Hispanic Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (Janurary 1987 data file). Data were collected for Mexican-Americans beginning in July 1982 and ending in December 1983, for Cuban-Americans beginning in January 1983 and ending in mid-May 1983, and for Puerto Ricans beginning in mid-May 1983 and ending in December 1984.

Census[5]. Respondents with a poverty index value equal to or greater than 1.0 are described as "at or above poverty" while those below 1.0 are described as "below poverty." Definitions for the remaining classification variables are self-explanatory.

All tabulations are for weighted data. Frequencies based on denominator sample sizes of 30 or less are indicated with three dots (...); those between 31 and 45 are marked with an asterisk (*) to indicate possible unreliability; and those over 45 are considered to be reliable point estimates. All tabulations include missing data when they occur and are identified in the tables as "Unknown/No response". Missing data result from three sources: (1) refusals, (2) responses of "don't know," and (3) questions that should have been answered but, for some reason, were not. Symbols appearing in the tables are displayed in the box below.

Quantity is zero	-
Quantity is less than 0.05	+
Denominator is 30 or less	...
Denominator is between 31 and 45	*

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[5] See note 12, NCHS 1987 for a detailed description of the poverty index.

2. MARIJUANA

This chapter presents data on the use of marijuana by persons of Hispanic origin[1]. Results from tabulations are presented in four sections. *First*, data on prevalence of use are presented based on whether individuals had ever used (i.e., lifetime use) marijuana, and if so, whether the use was during the past 30 days (i.e., current use), in the past year (but not past month), or not in the past year (i.e., more than a year ago). These data are presented within the context of selected sociodemographic variables. *Second*, for lifetime users, data are presented on the frequency of marijuana use according to the recency of use (i.e., past 30 days, past year, and not past year). *Third*, data are presented for current users on the frequency of use in the past 30 days according to age and to sex. *Fourth*, for users of any of the four drugs studied, data are presented on whether persons had used marijuana only, marijuana plus one or more of the other three drugs, or one or more of the other three drugs but not marijuana. These data are presented by age and by sex.

As sample sizes permit, the data in this chapter are presented for each of the Hispanic populations studied (i.e. Mexican-American, Puerto Rican, and Cuban-American). In some instances variable categories have been combined because of small sample sizes. The reader is reminded that the analysis presented here is restricted to persons aged 12 to 44 years.

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[1] For the purposes of this report "Hispanic origin" refers to Mexican-Americans, Puerto Ricans and Cuban-Americans in the sample universe of the survey, and not to Hispanics in general or members of these populations living outside the areas selected for this study. See the Introduction for a description of the sample universe for the Hispanic Health and Nutrition Examination Survey.

Prevalence of Use (tables 2.1 - 2.3)

Mexican-Americans (table 2.1)

Approximately 42 percent of Mexican-Americans 12 to 44 years of age had used marijuana sometime in their life. The median age at which marijuana was first used by Mexican-Americans was 16 years for males and females. Twenty percent, or about half of those who had ever used marijuana, had last used the drug more than a year ago. Over 12 percent of Mexican-Americans were current users, and a further 9 percent had used the drug within the past year.

Age – Among the four age categories shown in table 2.1 the largest percentage of ever users was 56.6 percent for 18 to 24 year olds, and 20.7 percent of the individuals from this age group were current users. Among those aged 12 to 17 years 30.7 percent had ever used marijuana and 10.3 percent were current users.

Sex – Mexican-American males were almost twice as likely as were their female counterparts to have used marijuana sometime during their life (54.2 percent compared with 27.9 percent). They also were nearly three times as likely as were females to be current users (17.9 percent compared with 6.2 percent).

Language of interview – Mexican-Americans who preferred to speak English during the interview were almost twice as likely as were those who preferred to speak Spanish to have ever used marijuana (49.2 percent compared with 25.3 percent). Mexican-Americans who preferred English also were three times as likely as were those who preferred to speak Spanish to be current users (15.5 percent compared with 5.3 percent). However, some of this difference may be attributable to a difference in the age distributions of the two groups, with those who preferred to speak Spanish tending to be older than those who preferred to speak English.

Education – Data in table 2.1 also show that for Mexican-Americans aged 17 to 44 years there was a positive relationship between level of education and having ever used marijuana in their lifetime; proportions ranged from 20.3 percent for persons with an elementary school education to 58.4 percent for persons with at least some college.

MARIJUANA USE - MEXICAN-AMERICANS

Table 2.1 Percent distribution of Mexican-Americans aged 12 to 44 years by use of marijuana according to sociodemographic variables: Southwest United States, 1982-1984

	Period of Use						
	Past month	Past year[1]	Not past year[2]	Total (Ever)	Never used	Unknown/ No response	Total
Total[3]	12.3	8.9	20.4	41.6	57.8	0.6	100.0
Age							
12-17	10.3	12.8	7.6	30.7	68.2	1.1	100.0
18-24	20.7	11.0	24.9	56.6	42.7	0.7	100.0
25-34	11.5	7.8	26.5	45.8	53.8	0.4	100.0
35-44	4.5	3.1	19.2	26.8	72.8	0.4	100.0
Sex							
Male	17.9	11.3	25.0	54.2	45.1	0.6	100.0
Female	6.2	6.2	15.5	27.9	71.4	0.7	100.0
Language of interview							
English	15.5	10.4	23.3	49.2	50.1	0.8	100.0
Spanish	5.3	5.6	14.4	25.3	74.4	0.4	100.0
Education[4]							
1- 6	2.7	3.3	14.3	20.3	79.3	0.4	100.0
7-12	17.7	9.3	20.4	47.4	52.1	0.6	100.0
High school graduate	15.9	8.5	28.4	52.8	46.8	0.4	100.0
Some college	13.6	10.8	34.0	58.4	41.3	0.4	100.0
Unknown/ No response	...	...	...	...	...	...	100.0
Total	13.2	8.2	23.8	45.2	54.3	0.5	100.0
Marital Status							
Under 14	2.1*	6.0*	3.3*	11.4	88.4	0.2	100.0
Married, spouse in household	9.5	6.4	24.3	40.2	59.5	0.3	100.0
Married, but now single[5]	16.8	4.0	24.8	45.6	53.0	1.4	100.0
Never married	17.5	14.5	17.2	49.2	49.7	1.1	100.0
Unknown/ No response	...	...	...	...	...	...	100.0

See footnotes at end of table

Table 2.1 Percent distribution of Mexican-Americans aged 12 to 44 years by use of marijuana according to sociodemographic variables: Southwest Unites States, 1982-1984 - Continued

	Period of Use						
	Past month	Past year[1]	Not past year[2]	Total (Ever)	Never used	Unknown/ No response	Total
Total[3]	12.3	8.9	20.4	41.6	57.8	0.6	100.0
Country of birth							
Mexico	5.9	5.8	15.1	26.8	73.0	0.2	100.0
United States	15.3	10.3	23.1	48.7	50.3	0.9	100.0
Other	...	...	...	...	...	...	100.0
Unknown/ No response	...	...	...	...	...	...	100.0
Total combined family income							
Under $10,000	15.2	8.3	16.6	40.1	59.0	0.8	100.0
$10,000-$14,999	11.5	9.0	19.6	40.1	58.8	1.1	100.0
$15,000-$19,999	10.7	7.5	22.6	40.8	59.1	0.1	100.0
$20,000-$24,999	13.1	9.3	22.5	44.9	54.9	0.3	100.0
$25,000-$34,999	10.4	8.3	22.4	41.1	58.6	0.3	100.0
$35,000 and above	11.3	12.2	26.5	50.0	49.3	0.6	100.0
Unknown/ No response	11.9	8.1	15.5	35.5	63.4	1.1	100.0
Poverty index[6]							
At or above poverty	11.7	9.0	23.3	44.0	55.6	0.4	100.0
Below poverty	13.9	8.4	14.8	37.1	61.9	1.0	100.0
Unknown/ No response	11.9	8.1	15.5	35.5	63.4	1.1	100.0

1 Does not include past month use.
2 Used more than a year ago.
3 Does not apply to the distribution for education.
4 Persons 12 to 16 years of age are not included in this distribution.
5 Category includes persons who are widowed, divorced, separated or married but whose spouse is not living in the household.
6 See chapter 1 footnote 5 for reference containing description of the poverty index.

Note: Percentages are calculated with weights provided by NCHS.
Source: Hispanic Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (January 1987 data file). Data were collected for Mexican-Americans beginning in July 1982 and ending in December 1983, for Cuban-Americans beginning in January 1983 and ending in mid-May 1983, and for Puerto Ricans beginning in mid-May 1983 and ending in December 1984.

However, the largest percentage of current users was 17.7 percent for individuals with an education between 7th and 12th grades.

Marital status – There was relatively little variation in lifetime marijuana use according to marital status. Percentages of ever used ranged from 40.2 percent for married individuals living with their spouses to 49.2 percent for persons who have never been married. However, age was undoubtedly a confounding factor for those who have never been married. Despite the relatively small differences in lifetime marijuana use by marital status, large differences were found in current use; individuals living singly (i.e., either never married or married but now living singly) were almost twice as likely as were married individuals living with their spouses to be current users (16.8 percent - 17.5 percent and 9.5 percent, respectively).

Country of birth – Approximately 49 percent of Mexican-Americans born in the United States had ever used marijuana compared with only 26.8 percent for those born in Mexico (table 2.1). About 15 percent of U.S.-born Mexican-Americans were current users compared with 5.9 percent of those born in Mexico.

Total combined family income – Data in table 2.1 show that for Mexican-Americans the likelihood of having had experience with marijuana generally increased as income rose, although differences were small. Lifetime use percentages for persons in income brackets under $20,000 ranged from 40.1 percent to 40.8 percent with the percentage for persons in the highest bracket, $35,000 and above, rising to 50.0 percent. In contrast, the largest percentage of current users, 15.2 percent, was for persons whose total combined family income was less than $10,000.

Poverty index – The poverty index, which incorporates total combined family income as well as other economic factors, confirms the relationship between economic status and use of marijuana seen for total combined family income. Individuals at or above the poverty level were 1.2 times as likely as were individuals below this level to have ever used marijuana (44.0 percent compared with 37.1 percent), but individuals below the poverty level were 1.2 times as likely as were those at or above it to be current users (13.9 percent compared with 11.7 percent).

Puerto Ricans (table 2.2)

Overall, 43 percent of Puerto Ricans aged 12 to 44 years had ever used marijuana; and 15.1 percent were current users. The median age at which marijuana was first used by Puerto Ricans was 15 years for males and 16 years for females. For males, this was the lowest median age for the three Hispanic populations.

Age – Persons 18 to 24 years old and 25 to 34 years old were more than twice as likely as were younger and older persons to have ever used marijuana (64.4 percent and 56.1 percent compared with 25.7 percent and 25.1 percent, respectively). The largest proportion of current users was 25.1 percent for persons aged 18 to 24 years.

Sex – Approximately 53 percent of Puerto Rican males had used marijuana at least once, nearly half of these (22.1 percent of all males) were current users. About 36 percent of Puerto Rican females had ever used marijuana, and less than one-third of these (10.4 percent of all females) were current users.

Language of interview – Nearly 51 percent of Puerto Ricans who preferred to speak English during the interview had ever used marijuana, and about 20 percent were current users. Only 30.0 percent of Puerto Ricans who preferred to speak Spanish had ever used the drug, and only 8.0 percent had used marijuana during the 30 days prior to their interview.

Education – Although small sample sizes necessitated the combining of the elementary and junior high school/high school categories of level of education, a positive association, similar to that observed for Mexican-Americans, existed between level of education and lifetime marijuana use. The proportions ranged from 45.2 percent among persons with less than a high school diploma to 57.3 percent among persons with at least some college. Unlike Mexican-Americans, however, the percentage of Puerto Rican current users varied little across education levels, ranging between 16.8 percent and 17.8 percent.

Marital Status – Consistent with the pattern observed for Mexican-Americans, Puerto Ricans who had never been married had the highest percentage of ever users (51.0 percent) and current users (18.6 percent) of any marital status category.

MARIJUANA USE - PUERTO RICANS

Table 2.2 Percent distribution of Puerto Ricans aged 12 to 44 years by use of marijuana according to sociodemographic variables: New York City area, 1982-1984

	Period of Use						
	Past month	Past year[1]	Not past year[2]	Total (Ever)	Never used	Unknown/ No response	Total
Total[3]	15.1	7.7	19.9	42.7	57.1	0.3	100.0
Age							
12-17	9.4	9.2	7.1	25.7	74.2	0.2	100.0
18-24	25.1	8.7	30.6	64.4	35.0	0.5	100.0
25-34	19.9	8.4	27.8	56.1	43.6	0.3	100.0
35-44	6.2	4.1	14.8	25.1	74.9	-	100.0
Sex							
Male	22.1	10.2	20.6	52.9	46.9	0.2	100.0
Female	10.4	6.0	19.4	35.8	64.0	0.3	100.0
Language of interview							
English	19.6	8.7	22.4	50.7	49.2	0.1	100.0
Spanish	8.0	6.1	15.9	30.0	69.5	0.5	100.0
Education[4,5]							
1- 12	17.0	7.3	20.9	45.2	54.3	0.4	100.0
High school graduate	17.8	8.8	23.9	50.5	49.3	0.2	100.0
Some college	16.8	8.0	32.5	57.3	42.8	-	100.0
Unknown/ No response	...	...	...	...	...	...	100.0
Total	17.3	7.7	24.2	49.2	50.6	0.3	100.0
Marital Status							
Under 14	...	...	...	9.2	90.2	0.6	100.0
Married, spouse in household	12.8	7.9	20.6	41.3	58.8	-	100.0
Married, but now single[6]	15.8	4.0	21.0	40.8	58.9	0.3	100.0
Never married	18.6	10.0	22.4	51.0	48.7	0.4	100.0
Unknown/ No response	...	...	...	...	...	...	100.0

See footnotes at end of table

Table 2.2 Percent distribution of Puerto Ricans aged 12 to 44 years by use of marijuana according to sociodemographic variables: New York City area, 1982-1984

	Period of Use						
	Past month	Past year[1]	Not past year[2]	Total (Ever)	Never used	Unknown/ No response	Total
Total[3]	15.1	7.7	19.9	42.7	57.1	0.3	100.0
Country of birth							
Puerto Rico	10.3	6.7	19.1	36.1	63.7	0.2	100.0
United States	20.3	9.1	20.6	50.0	49.8	0.3	100.0
Other	...	...	...	...	...	...	100.0
Unknown/ No response	...	...	...	...	...	...	100.0
Total combined family income[4]							
Under $10,000	13.6	6.5	19.9	40.0	59.3	0.7	100.0
$10,000-$14,999	14.7	7.0	18.7	40.4	59.6	-	100.0
$15,000-$19,999	13.3	5.3	23.2	41.8	58.2	-	100.0
$20,000-$34,999	17.9	11.9	18.8	48.6	51.3	-	100.0
$35,000 and above	21.9*	9.4*	18.7*	50.0	50.0	-	100.0
Unknown/ No response	13.6	8.6	20.1	42.3	57.7	-	100.0
Poverty index[7]							
At or above poverty	17.1	8.1	20.8	46.0	53.9	0.2	100.0
Below poverty	12.9	7.0	18.6	38.5	61.0	0.4	100.0
Unknown/ No response	12.8*	8.2*	20.2*	41.2	58.8	-	100.0

1 Does not include past month use.
2 Used more than a year ago.
3 Does not apply to the distribution for education.
4 Category is combined because of small sample size.
5 Persons 12 to 16 years of age are not included in this distribution.
6 Category includes persons who are widowed, divorced, separated or married but whose spouse is not living in the household.
7 See chapter 1 footnote 5 for reference containing description of the poverty index.

Note: Percentages are calculated with weights provided by NCHS.
Source: Hispanic Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (January 1987 data file). Data were collected for Mexican-Americans beginning in July 1982 and ending in December 1983, for Cuban-Americans beginning in January 1983 and ending in mid-May 1983, and for Puerto Ricans beginning in mid-May 1983 and ending in December 1984.

Country of birth – Exactly one-half of U.S.-born Puerto Ricans had used marijuana at least once in their life compared with over one-third (36.1 percent) of those born in Puerto Rico. The percentage of U.S.-born current users was twice that of Puerto Rico-born current users (20.3 percent compared with 10.3 percent).

Total combined family income – The positive relationship between income and percentage of ever users observed for Mexican-Americans also was seen for Puerto Ricans. Percentages of ever users of marijuana ranged from 40.0 percent for those individuals whose families earned under $10,000 to 50.0 percent for those whose families earned $35,000 or more. Unlike Mexican-Americans, however, the largest percentage (21.9 percent) of current users of marijuana was for persons whose family income was $35,000 or more.

Poverty index – Forty-six percent of Puerto Ricans from families living at or above the poverty level had used marijuana at least once in their life. About 17 percent of the individuals from these families were current users. Approximately 39 percent of Puerto Ricans from families living below the poverty level had ever used marijuana, and 12.9 percent were current users.

Cuban-Americans (table 2.3)

Several of the sociodemographic characteristics categories shown in table 2.3 have been combined because of the previously mentioned small sample size and low rates of drug use reported by Cuban-Americans . While this reduced the comparability of these categories with the corresponding categories in the other two Hispanic populations, it was necessary to permit the presentation of the available data.

Approximately 20 percent of Cuban-Americans aged 12 to 44 years had used marijuana at least once in their lifetime. The median age at which marijuana was first used by Cuban-Americans was 17 years for males and 18 for females; the oldest median age for the three Hispanic populations studied. Over half of those who had ever used the drug (11.8 percent of all Cuban-Americans) last used it more than a year

Table 2.3 Percent distribution of Cuban-Americans aged 12 to 44 by use of marijuana according to sociodemographic variables: Dade County, Florida, 1982-1984

	Period of Use						
	Past month	Past year[1]	Not past year[2]	Total (Ever)	Never used	Unknown/ No response	Total
Total[3]	5.3	3.1	11.8	20.1	79.7	0.2	100.0
Age[4]							
12-24	7.3	3.7	9.5	20.5	78.0	-	100.0
25-44	4.0	1.7	13.3	19.0	80.8	0.3	100.0
Sex							
Male	8.3	4.3	15.6	28.2	71.1	0.7	100.0
Female	2.7*	2.0*	8.4*	13.1	86.9	-	100.0
Language of interview							
English	12.6	7.5	22.6	42.7	57.3	-	100.0
Spanish	2.6*	1.5*	7.8*	11.9	87.9	0.2	100.0
Education[4,5]							
1-High school graduate	5.0*	1.7*	10.0*	16.7	83.0	0.3	100.0
Some college	8.5	5.7	20.0	34.2	65.7	0.1	100.0
Unknown/ No response	...	...	...	...	...	...	100.0
Total	6.2	3.4	13.8	23.4	76.3	0.2	100.0
Marital Status							
Under 14	-	-	-	-	100.0	-	100.0
Married, spouse in household	3.6*	1.8*	10.6*	16.0	83.5	0.4	100.0
Married, but now single[6]	...	...	...	27.2	72.8	-	100.0
Never married	11.3	6.0	10.9	28.2	71.7	-	100.0

See footnotes at end of table

Table 2.3 Percent distribution of Cuban-Americans aged 12 to 44 by use of marijuana according to sociodemographic variables: Dade County, Florida, 1982-1984 - Continued

	Period of Use						
	Past month	Past year[1]	Not past year[2]	Total (Ever)	Never used	Unknown/ No response	Total
Total[3]	5.3	3.1	11.8	20.1	79.7	0.2	100.0
Country of birth							
Cuba	5.5	3.0	19.7	20.2	79.6	0.2	100.0
United States	...	...	...	18.9	81.1	-	100.0
Other	...	...	...	...	...	...	100.0
Unknown/ No response	...	...	...	...	...	...	100.0
Poverty index[7]							
At or above poverty	6.0	2.4	12.5	20.9	79.1	-	100.0
Below poverty	4.6*	5.6*	6.1*	16.3	82.8	0.9	100.0
Unknown/ No response	...	...	...	24.7	75.3	-	100.0

1 Does not include past month use.
2 Used more than a year ago.
3 Does not apply to the distribution for education.
4 Category is combined because of small sample size.
5 Persons 12 to 16 years of age are not included in this distribution.
6 Category includes persons who are widowed, divorced, separated or married but whose spouse is not living in the household.
7 See chapter 1 footnote 5 for reference containing description of the poverty index.

Note: Percentages are calculated with weights provided by NCHS.
Source: Hispanic Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (January 1987 data file). Data were collected for Mexican-Americans beginning in July 1982 and ending in December 1983, for Cuban-Americans beginning in January 1983 and ending in mid-May 1983, and for Puerto Ricans beginning in mid-May 1983 and ending in December 1984.

ago. About 5 percent of Cuban-Americans were current users of marijuana with another 3.1 percent having used it in the past year.

Age – Data in table 2.2 indicate that there was little age variation in lifetime use of marijuana for Cuban-Americans; 20.5 percent of the individuals in the younger age category (12 to 24 years) had ever used marijuana compared with 19.0 percent of the individuals in the older age category (25 to 44 years). However, age differences were noted in current use rates; the percentage of Cuban-American current users aged 12 to 24 was 1.8 times that of older Cuban-Americans (7.3 percent compared with 4.0 percent).

Sex – More than one-fourth (28.2 percent) of Cuban-American males had at least tried marijuana, compared with 13.1 percent of females. Among Cuban-Americans, 8.3 percent of males and 2.7 percent of females were current users.

Language of interview – Approximately 43 percent of Cuban-Americans who preferred to speak English during the interview had ever used marijuana, over double the overall percentage of 20.1. Conversely, only 11.9 percent of Cuban-Americans who preferred to speak Spanish had ever used marijuana. This discrepancy increased for current users, who constituted 12.6 percent of Cuban-Americans who preferred to speak English compared with only 2.6 percent of those who preferred to speak Spanish.

Education – About 17 percent of Cuban-Americans with an education of high school or less had ever used marijuana, while 34.2 percent of those with at least some college had tried marijuana. The percentage of current users among the more educated was 8.5 percent, compared with 5.0 percent of the less educated group.

Marital status – While the comparisons that can be made across marital status categories are limited, the data in table 2.3 indicate that individuals who have never been married or who have been married but, for various reasons, are now living singly were more likely than were those who are married and living with their spouses to have ever used marijuana (28.2 percent and 27.2 percent compared with 16.0 percent, respectively). Differences were more dramatic for current use; the percentage of current users among those who have never been married was over 3 times that

found among persons who are married and living with their spouses (11.3 percent compared with 3.6 percent).

Country of birth – There was little variation in the use of marijuana among Cuban-Americans according to country of birth. Approximately 20 percent of the Cuban-Americans born in Cuba had ever used marijuana compared with 18.9 percent of those born in the United States.

Poverty index – Comparisons using the poverty index indicate that 20.9 percent of the individuals living at or above the poverty level had ever used marijuana compared with 16.3 percent of those living below the poverty level. Six percent of the Cuban-Americans living at or above the poverty level were current users compared with 4.6 percent of those living below the poverty level.

Frequency of Use During Lifetime (table 2.4)

Table 2.4 presents data for each of the three Hispanic populations on lifetime frequency of marijuana use according to the recency of use. Persons who had used marijuana at least once during their lifetime are included.

Mexican-Americans

Almost one-fourth (23.4 percent) of the Mexican-Americans aged 12 to 44 years who had ever used marijuana had use it 100 or more times during their lifetime; however, over one-third (35.6 percent) had used it only 1 or 2 times in their life. Of the current users (past month use) 55.2 percent had used marijuana 100 or more times during their lifetime. In contrast, only 15.6 percent of those who had used marijuana in the past year and 8.4 percent of those who had last used it more than a year ago had used the drug 100 or more times in their life. Approximately 55 percent of those who had last used marijuana more than a year ago had ever used it only 1 or 2 times.

MARIJUANA USE - MEXICAN-AMERICANS, PUERTO RICANS, AND CUBAN-AMERICANS

Table 2.4 Percent distribution of Hispanic-Americans aged 12 to 44 who have ever used marijuana by recency of use according to population and lifetime frequency of use: Southwest United States, New York City area, and Dade County, Florida, 1982-1984

	Lifetime frequency					
	1-2 times	3-10 times	11-99 times	100 or more times	Unknown/ No response	Total
Recency of Use						
Mexican-American						
Past month	2.8	10.2	27.5	55.2	4.4	100.0
Past year[1]	22.1	37.1	22.6	15.6	2.5	100.0
Not past year[2]	55.2	22.4	12.0	8.4	2.0	100.0
Total (ever used)	35.6	22.0	18.7	23.4	3.4	100.0
Puerto Ricans						
Past month	3.0	6.4	29.2	61.4	-	100.0
Past year[1]	23.4	18.0	40.5	18.1	-	100.0
Not past year[2]	42.9	23.4	15.2	18.1	0.4	100.0
Total (ever used)	25.1	16.3	24.6	33.3	0.8	100.0
Cuban-Americans						
Past year[3]	7.9	23.8	21.8	32.2	14.3	100.0
Not past year[2]	46.8	27.0	22.4	-	3.9	100.0
Total (ever used)	30.3	25.4	21.9	13.3	9.1	100.0

[1] Does not include past month use.
[2] Used more than a year ago.
[3] Category is combined because of small sample size. Category includes past month use.

Note: Percentages are calculated with weights provided by NCHS.
Source: Hispanic Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (January 1987 data file). Data were collected for Mexican-Americans beginning in July 1982 and ending in December 1983, for Cuban-Americans beginning in January 1983 and ending in mid-May 1983, and for Puerto Ricans beginning in mid-May 1983 and ending in December 1984.

Puerto Ricans

One-third (33.3 percent) of the Puerto Ricans aged 12 to 44 years who had ever used marijuana had used it 100 or more times during their lifetime; over one-fourth (25.1 percent) had used the drug only once or twice in their lifetime. Almost two-thirds (61.4 percent) of the current users had used marijuana 100 or more times during their lifetime compared with 18.1 percent each for those who had last used the drug in the past year or more than a year ago. However, a further 40.5 percent of those who had last used marijuana in the past year had used it between 11 and 99 times in their lifetime. Approximately 43 percent of the Puerto Ricans who had last used marijuana more than a year ago had used the drug only 1 or 2 times in their lifetime.

Cuban-Americans

Only 13.3 percent of the Cuban-Americans who had ever used marijuana had ever used it 100 or more times; nearly one-third (30.3 percent) had used it only once or twice in their lifetime. However, nearly one-third (32.2 percent) of the current users had used the drug 100 or more times in their lifetime. Approximately 47 percent of the Cuban-Americans who had last used marijuana more than a year ago had used it only 1 or 2 times in their lifetime.

Frequency of Use During the Past Thirty Days (table 2.5)

Table 2.5 presents data for Mexican-Americans and Puerto Ricans on the number of days they had used marijuana in the 30 days prior to their interview; separate distributions are shown according to age and to sex. This table is limited to persons who had used marijuana in the past 30 days. Because so few Cuban-American sample persons reported using marijuana in the past 30 days, reliable estimates of past 30 day use could not be obtained for this population. Also, because of low rates of past 30 day use for Mexican-Americans and Puerto Ricans, the 25 to 34 year old and 35 to 44 year old age groups were combined.

MARIJUANA USE - MEXICAN-AMERICANS AND PUERTO RICANS

Table 2.5 Percent distribution of Mexican-American and Puerto Rican current users aged 12 to 44 years by the frequency of use of marijuana in the past 30 days according to age and sex: Southwest United States and New York City area, 1982-1984

	Past 30 Day Use					
	1-4 Days	5-14 Days	15-27 Days	28-30 Days	Unknown/ No response	Total
Mexican-American						
Total	44.8	20.1	12.9	11.7	10.6	100.0
Age[1]						
12-17	44.8	21.3	6.9	7.8	19.3	100.0
18-24	43.5	21.3	14.5	11.6	9.1	100.0
25-44	46.1	18.1	14.1	13.9	7.8	100.0
Sex						
Male	40.3	22.2	13.7	14.6	9.2	100.0
Female	57.4	14.0	10.5	3.3	14.8	100.0
Puerto Rican						
Total	40.5	16.5	9.8	19.2	14.0	100.0
Age[1]						
12-17	58.5	15.8	3.5	9.5	12.3	100.0
18-24	38.6	15.0	8.9	18.8	18.8	100.0
25-44	35.3	18.2	12.9	23.4	10.2	100.0
Sex						
Male	32.0	18.6	11.6	22.9	15.0	100.0
Female	52.7	13.7	7.1	14.0	12.5	100.0

[1] Category is combined because of small sample size.

Note: Percentages are calculated with weights provided by NCHS.
Source: Hispanic Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (January 1987 data file). Data were collected for Mexican-Americans beginning in July 1982 and ending in December 1983, for Cuban-Americans beginning in January 1983 and ending in mid-May 1983, and for Puerto Ricans beginning in mid-May 1983 and ending in December 1984.

Mexican-Americans

About 45 percent of the Mexican-Americans who were current users of marijuana had used it on 1 to 4 days during the 30 days prior to their interview. Another 20.1 percent of current users had used marijuana on 5 to 14 days in the past 30 days. About one-quarter (24.6 percent) of the Mexican-American who were current users of marijuana had used it on a more frequent basis: 12.9 percent on 15 to 27 days in the past 30 days and 11.7 percent daily (28 to 30 days).

Age – Comparisons among the three age groups were limited because of the relatively large percentage of unknowns (19.3 percent) for those aged 12 to 17 years. The proportions for the remaining two age groups (18 to 24 year olds and 25 to 44 year olds) showed little variation across the number of days used in the past 30 days categories. Over one-fourth (26.1 percent and 28.0 percent, respectively) of the Mexican-Americans in each of these two age groups had used marijuana on 15 or more days in the 30 days prior to their interview

Sex – Data in table 2.5 also indicate that, for Mexican-Americans who had used marijuana in the past month, males were about five times as likely as were females to be every day users (14.6 percent compared with 3.3 percent). Over one-half of the females (57.4 percent) who had used marijuana in the past month had used it on 1 to 4 days only during this time period. Over one-fourth of the males (28.3 percent) who had used the drug in the past month had used it on every other day or more (i.e. on 15 to 30 days) during this time period.

Puerto Ricans

Twenty-nine percent of the Puerto Ricans who were current users of marijuana had used it on at least every other day in the past 30 days. A further 16.5 percent of current users had used the drug on 5 to 14 days, and another 40.5 percent had use it on 1 to 4 days. Thus, among those who were current users, Puerto Ricans were somewhat more frequent users of marijuana than were Mexican-Americans.

Age – Age differences in frequency of use were apparent even at low frequencies. Nearly 59 percent of the Puerto Ricans aged 12 to 17 years who had used marijuana in the past month had done so on 1 to 4 days during this time period, compared with 38.6 percent of 18 to 24 year olds and 35.3 percent of 25 to 44 year olds. About one-fourth (23.4 percent) of the 25 to 44 year old current users had used the drug every day in the past month, and over one-third (36.3 percent) had used it every other day or more. Only about 10 percent of 12 to 17 year olds who had used marijuana in the past 30 days had done so every day.

Sex – About one-fourth (22.9 percent) of the Puerto Rican males who were current user of marijuana had used it every day in the past 30 days compared with 14.0 percent of the females. Over one-half (52.7 percent) of the Puerto Rican females who were current users of the drug had used it on four or fewer days in the past 30 days compared with about one-third (32.0 percent) of the males.

Lifetime Use of Selected Drugs (table 2.6)

Table 2.6 presents data for Mexican-Americans and Puerto Ricans on the lifetime (ever) use of the four drugs studied according to age and to sex. Specifically, this section is concerned with whether individuals who had used any of the four selected drugs used marijuana only, marijuana and one or more of the other three drugs, or one or more of the other three drugs but not marijuana. As mentioned previously, this variable does not provide for the analysis of concomitant use. Reliable estimates for this analysis could not be produced for Cuban-Americans because of the low rates of inhalant and sedative use reported by sample persons from this population. Data in table 2.6 are limited to persons who had used at least one of the four selected drugs at least once in their lifetime.

MARIJUANA USE · MEXICAN-AMERICANS AND PUERTO RICANS

Table 2.6 Percent distribution of Mexican-Americans and Puerto Ricans aged 12 to 44 years who have ever used selected drugs in their lifetime by drug(s) used according to age: Southwest United States and New York City area, 1982-1984

	Drug(s) Used in Lifetime			
	Marijuana only	Marijuana and other(s)[1]	Other(s) only[1]	Total
Mexican-American				
Total	62.8	34.0	3.2	100.0
Age				
12-17	75.5	20.7	3.8	100.0
18-24	57.2	41.1	1.6	100.0
25-34	61.4	35.3	3.2	100.0
35-44	64.7	28.6	6.7	100.0
Sex				
Male	58.8	37.7	3.4	100.0
Female	71.0	26.2	2.8	100.0
Puerto Ricans				
Total	47.1	50.8	2.2	100.0
Age				
12-17	68.7	28.6	2.7	100.0
18-24	41.9	57.0	1.0	100.0
25-34	36.9	60.9	2.2	100.0
35-44	60.2	35.6	4.2	100.0
Sex				
Male	43.5	54.6	2.0	100.0
Female	50.7	47.0	2.3	100.0

[1] The other drugs include cocaine, inhalants and sedatives (nonmedical).

Note: Percentages are calculated with weights provided by NCHS.
Source: Hispanic Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (January 1987 data file). Data were collected for Mexican-Americans beginning in July 1982 and ending in December 1983, for Cuban-Americans beginning in January 1983 and ending in mid-May 1983, and for Puerto Ricans beginning in mid-May 1983 and ending in December 1984.

Mexican-Americans

Nearly two-thirds (62.8 percent) of the Mexican-Americans aged 12 to 44 years who had ever used drugs had used only marijuana in their lifetime compared with 34.0 percent who had ever used marijuana and at least one of the other three selected drugs, and only 3.2 percent who had ever used at least one of the other three selected drugs only.

Age – Over three fourth (75.5 percent) of the 12 to 17 year old Mexican-Americans who had ever used drugs had used marijuana only. The proportion of marijuana only use for the remaining three age categories ranged from 57.2 percent for 18 to 24 year olds to 64.7 percent for 35 to 44 year olds. Proportions for use of one or more of the other three selected drugs only were relatively low. The largest proportion in this category was 6.7 percent for Mexican-Americans aged 35 to 44 years.

Sex – Mexican-American females who had ever used any of the four selected drugs were 1.2 times as likely as were their male counterparts to have used marijuana only in their lifetime (71.0 percent compared to 58.8 percent). Neither sex had large proportions of users who had ever used only one or more of the other three selected drugs (3.4 percent for males and 2.8 percent for females).

Puerto Ricans

Unlike the data for Mexican-Americans, the data for Puerto Ricans indicate that less than half (47.1 percent) of those aged 12 to 44 years who had ever used any of the four selected drugs had used only marijuana in their lifetime. Approximately 51 percent had used marijuana and at least one of the other three selected drugs during their lifetime.

Age – Puerto Ricans aged 12 to 17 years and 35 to 44 years who had ever used one or more of the four selected drugs were more likely to have used only marijuana in their lifetime (68.7 percent and 60.2 percent, respectively) than were those aged 18 to 24 years (41.9 percent) or those 25 to 34 years (36.9 percent). Proportions for the

exclusive use of one of the drug(s) other than marijuana were low across the four age categories. The proportions ranged from 1.0 percent for 18 to 24 year olds to 4.2 percent for 35 to 44 year olds.

Sex – Unlike the data for Mexican-Americans, the Puerto Rican data indicate that, with respect to sex, there was little difference in the proportions of lifetime use across the three categories of drug use. Approximately half (50.7 percent) of the Puerto Rican females who had ever used any of the four selected drugs had used only marijuana in their lifetime compared with 43.5 percent of the Puerto Rican males. The proportions for the lifetime use of one or more of the three selected drugs other than marijuana were low, 2.0 percent for males and 2.3 percent for females.

3. COCAINE

This chapter presents data on the use of cocaine by persons of Hispanic origin. For each Hispanic population data are presented on the prevalence of cocaine use based on whether individuals had ever used it, and if so, whether the use was during the past 30 days, in the past year (but not past month), or not in the past year. These data are presented according to selected sociodemographic variables. In several instances categories have been combined because of small sample sizes.

Mexican-Americans (table 3.1)

Approximately 11 percent of Mexican-Americans had used cocaine sometime during their life. The median age at which cocaine was first used by Mexican-Americans was 20 years for both males and females. Almost 5 percent of Mexican-Americans had last used the drug more than a year ago, while only 2.4 percent of Mexican-Americans were current users of cocaine.

Age – Mexican-Americans aged 18 to 24 and 25 to 34 years were 2 to 4 times as likely as were those either younger or older to have ever used cocaine (18.2 percent and 13.1 percent, respectively, compared to 4.2 percent for 12 to 17 year olds and 6.7 percent for 35 to 44 year olds). The largest percentage of current users of cocaine was 4.9 percent for persons 18 to 24 years old.

Sex – Data in table 3.1 reveal that Mexican-American males were almost 3 times as likely as were females to have ever used cocaine (16.5 percent compared with 5.6 percent), and they were 4 times as likely as were females to be current users (3.9 percent compared with 0.9 percent).

Language of interview – Approximately 14 percent of Mexican-Americans who preferred to speak English during the interview had ever used cocaine compared with 5.1 percent of those who preferred to speak Spanish. Additionally, Mexican-

COCAINE USE - MEXICAN-AMERICANS

Table 3.1 Percent distribution of Mexican-Americans aged 12 to 44 years by use of cocaine according to sociodemographic variables: Southwest United States, 1982-1984

	Period of Use						
	Past month	Past year[1]	Not past year[2]	Total (Ever)	Never used	Unknown/ No response	Total
Total[3]	2.4	3.8	4.9	11.1	88.4	0.4	100.0
Age							
12-17	0.7*	3.0*	0.5*	4.2	95.6	0.2	100.0
18-24	4.9	6.8	6.5	18.2	81.1	0.7	100.0
25-34	2.2	3.6	7.3	13.1	86.5	0.4	100.0
35-44	1.5*	1.3*	3.9*	6.7	92.8	0.5	100.0
Sex							
Male	3.9	6.0	6.6	16.5	83.2	0.4	100.0
Female	0.9	1.5	3.2	5.6	93.9	0.5	100.0
Language of Interview							
English	3.1	4.9	6.1	14.1	85.6	0.4	100.0
Spanish	0.9	1.7	2.5	5.1	94.4	0.6	100.0
Education[4,5]							
1-12	2.4	4.0	4.1	10.5	89.1	0.4	100.0
High school graduate	4.0	5.3	6.4	15.7	83.8	0.5	100.0
Some college	2.9	3.7	10.7	17.3	82.2	0.5	100.0
Unknown/ No response	...	...	...	...	...	...	100.0
Total	2.9	4.3	6.0	13.2	86.3	0.5	100.0
Marital Status							
Under 14	...	...	...	0.3	99.7	-	100.0
Married, spouse in household	2.2	2.8	5.3	10.3	89.5	0.2	100.0
Married, but now single[6]	3.8*	5.3*	6.8*	15.9	82.7	1.4	100.0
Never married	2.9	5.9	5.1	13.9	85.5	0.6	100.0
Unknown/ No response	...	...	...	...	...	...	100.0
Country of birth							
Mexico	1.3	1.7	2.7	5.7	93.9	0.4	100.0
United States	3.0	4.9	6.1	14.0	85.5	0.5	100.0
Other	...	...	...	...	...	...	100.0
Unknown/ No response	...	...	...	...	...	...	100.0

See footnotes at end of table

Table 3.1 Percent distribution of Mexican-Americans aged 12 to 44 years by use of cocaine according to sociodemographic variables: Southwest United States, 1982-1984 - Continued

	Period of Use						
	Past month	Past year[1]	Not past year[2]	Total (Ever)	Never used	Unknown/ No response	Total
Total[3]	2.4	3.8	4.9	11.1	88.4	0.4	100.0
Total combined family income							
Under $10,000	2.1	3.6	6.5	12.2	87.4	0.5	100.0
$10,000-$14,999	2.1	3.9	4.5	10.5	89.2	0.4	100.0
$15,000-$19,999	2.5*	1.7*	4.6*	8.8	90.7	0.6	100.0
$20,000-$24,999	2.8*	5.6*	4.3*	12.7	87.3	-	100.0
$25,000-$34,999	2.7*	4.0*	4.1*	10.8	89.0	0.3	100.0
$35,000 and above	3.6	6.3	7.0	16.9	83.0	0.1	100.0
Unknown/ No response	...	...	...	6.9	91.8	1.3	100.0
Poverty index[7]							
At or above poverty	2.8	4.0	5.3	12.1	87.7	0.2	100.0
Below poverty	1.8	3.5	5.1	10.4	88.9	0.7	100.0
Unknown/ No response	...	...	...	6.9	91.8	1.3	100.0

1 Does not include past month use.
2 Used one or more years ago.
3 Does not apply to the distribution for education.
4 Category is combined because of small sample size.
5 Persons 12 to 16 years of age are not included in this distribution.
6 Category includes persons who are widowed, divorced, separated or married but whose spouse is not living in the household.
7 See chapter 1 footnote 5 for reference containing description of the poverty index.

Note: Percentages are calculated with weights provided by NCHS.
Source: Hispanic Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (January 1987 data file). Data were collected for Mexican-Americans beginning in July 1982 and ending in December 1983, for Cuban-Americans beginning in January 1983 and ending in mid-May 1983, and for Puerto Ricans beginning in mid-May 1983 and ending in december 1984.

Americans who preferred to speak English were three times as likely as were those who preferred to speak Spanish to be current users of the drug (3.1 percent compared with 0.9 percent).

Education – For Mexican-Americans 17 to 44 years of age there was a positive relationship between having ever used cocaine and level of education. Approximately 11 percent of persons with less than a high school diploma had ever used cocaine compared with 15.7 percent for high school graduates and 17.3 percent for those with at least some college. For current use, however, the largest proportion, 4.0 percent, was for high school graduates; this was followed by 2.9 percent for those with at least some college, and 2.4 percent for those with less than a high school diploma.

Marital Status – Data for marital status show that lifetime use of cocaine, unlike marijuana use, was highest for persons who were married but who are now living singly. Approximately 16 percent of Mexican-Americans in this category had ever used cocaine. Proportions for the remaining categories were 13.9 percent for persons who have never been married, and 10.3 percent for persons who are married and living with their spouses. Persons who were married but who are now living singly also were more likely than were individuals from the other categories to have been current cocaine users (3.8 percent for those who were married but who are now living singly compared with 2.9 percent for those who have never been married and 2.2 percent for those who are married and living with their spouses).

Country of birth – Mexican-Americans born in the United States were 2.5 times as likely as were those born in Mexico to have at least tried cocaine (14.0 percent compared with 5.7 percent) . Furthermore, Mexican-Americans born in the United States were almost three times as likely as were those born in Mexico to be current users of the drug (3.0 percent compared with 1.3 percent).

Total combined family income – Data in table 3.1 for total combined family income show a U-shaped relationship to the percentage of lifetime (ever) cocaine use. The percentages started at 12.2 percent for persons whose family income was less than $10,000, then dropped to 8.8 percent for persons whose families earned between $15,000 and $19,999, and then rose again to 16.9 percent for persons whose families earned $35,000 or more. However, there was relatively little variation in the percentages of current users across the income categories. The proportions ranged

from 2.1 percent for persons whose family income was less than $15,000 to 3.6 percent for persons whose family income was $35,000 or more.

Poverty index – Mexican-Americans living at or above the poverty level were somewhat more likely than were those living below this level to have ever used cocaine (12.1 percent compared with 10.4 percent) or to have been current users (2.8 percent compared with 1.8 percent).

Puerto Ricans (table 3.2)

A relatively high proportion of Puerto Ricans who had used cocaine were also current users. Data in table 3.2 reveal that 21.5 percent of Puerto Ricans had ever used cocaine. (This is the largest prevalence rate among the three populations). However, 8.9 percent of Puerto Ricans were current users of the drug while only 6.5 percent had last used it more than a year ago. This pattern remained consistent across the various sociodemographic variables. The median age at which cocaine was first used by Puerto Ricans was 17 years for males and 19 years for females.

Age – Approximately one-third each of the 18 to 24 year olds (37.2 percent) and the 25 to 34 year olds (32.8 percent) had ever used cocaine compared with only 9.0 percent of the 35 to 44 year olds and 7.0 percent of the 12 to 17 year olds. However, 17.5 percent of the 18 to 24 year olds were current users compared with 12.7 percent of the 25 to 34 year olds.

Sex – Puerto Rican males aged 12 to 44 years were 1.7 times as likely as were females to have at least tried cocaine (28.3 percent compared with 16.8 percent). This discrepancy also was observed for current users, with males being nearly twice as likely as were females to have used cocaine in the past month (12.4 percent compared with 6.4 percent).

Language of interview – Over one-fourth (26.6 percent) of Puerto Ricans who preferred to speak English during the interview had ever used cocaine. Approximately 11 percent of those who preferred to speak English had used the drug in the past 30 days. Only 13.4 percent of Puerto Ricans who preferred to speak Spanish had ever used cocaine; however, 6.0 percent of these were current users.

Table 3.2 Percent distribution of Puerto Ricans aged 12 to 44 years by use of cocaine according to sociodemographic variables: New York City area, 1982-1984

	Period of Use						
	Past month	Past year[1]	Not past year[2]	Total (Ever)	Never used	Unknown/ No response	Total
Total[3]	8.9	6.1	6.5	21.5	78.4	0.1	100.0
Age							
12-17	2.4*	4.3*	0.3*	7.0	92.8	0.2	100.0
18-24	17.5	10.9	8.8	37.2	62.8	-	100.0
25-34	12.7	7.5	12.6	32.8	66.8	0.3	100.0
35-44	...	...	...	9.0	91.0	-	100.0
Sex							
Male	12.4	7.8	8.1	28.3	71.5	0.2	100.0
Female	6.4	5.0	5.4	16.8	83.2	0.1	100.0
Language of Interview							
English	10.7	7.5	8.4	26.6	73.4	-	100.0
Spanish	6.0	3.9	3.5	13.4	86.5	0.3	100.0
Education[4,5]							
1-12	9.8	6.4	6.9	23.1	76.7	0.2	100.0
High school graduate	11.4	6.6	11.0	29.0	71.0	-	100.0
Some college	13.0	10.1	7.6	30.7	69.4	-	100.0
Unknown/ No response	...	...	...	...	...	...	100.0
Total	10.8	7.2	8.4	26.4	73.5	0.1	100.0
Marital Status							
Under 14	...	...	...	0.5	98.9	0.6	100.0
Married, spouse in household	6.8	4.3	8.3	19.4	80.9	-	100.0
Married, but now single[6]	10.6*	6.7*	6.3*	23.6	76.4	-	100.0
Never married	11.4	8.2	6.6	26.2	73.7	0.2	100.0
Unknown/ No response	...	...	...	...	...	...	100.0
Country of birth							
Puerto Rico	7.9	4.6	5.3	17.8	82.1	0.2	100.0
United States	9.4	7.6	8.0	25.0	75.0	0.1	100.0
Other	...	...	...	...	...	...	100.0
Unknown/ No response	...	...	...	...	...	...	100.0

See footnotes at end of table

Table 3.2 Percent distribution of Puerto Ricans aged 12 to 44 years by use of cocaine according to sociodemographic variables: New York City area, 1982-1984 - Continued

	Period of Use						
	Past month	Past year[1]	Not past year[2]	Total (Ever)	Never used	Unknown/ No response	Total
Total[3]	8.9	6.1	6.5	21.5	78.4	0.1	100.0
Total combined family income[4]							
Under $10,000	7.3	4.6	6.0	17.9	81.7	0.4	100.0
$10,000-$14,999	8.0	6.6	6.5	21.1	78.9	-	100.0
$15,000-$19,999	9.8*	5.4*	10.8*	26.0	74.0	-	100.0
$20,000-$34,999	13.2*	7.4*	5.7*	25.8	74.2	-	100.0
$35,000 and above	...	...	...	25.7	73.3	-	100.0
Unknown/ No response	...	...	...	14.7	85.3	-	100.0
Poverty index[7]							
At or above poverty	11.4	7.0	8.2	26.6	73.4	0.1	100.0
Below poverty	6.3	4.8	4.7	15.8	84.1	0.1	100.0
Unknown/ No response	...	...	...	14.7	85.3	-	100.0

1 Does not include past month use.
2 Used one or more years ago.
3 Does not apply to the distribution for education.
4 Category is combined because of small sample size.
5 Persons 12 to 16 years of age are not included in this distribution.
6 Category includes persons who are widowed, divorced, separated or married but whose spouse is not living in the household.
7 See chapter 1 footnote 5 for reference containing description of the poverty index.

Note: Percentages are calculated with weights provided by NCHS.
Source: Hispanic Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (January 1987 data file). Data were collected for Mexican-Americans beginning in July 1982 and ending in December 1983, for Cuban-Americans beginning in January 1983 and ending in mid-May 1983, and for Puerto Ricans beginning in mid-May 1983 and ending in december 1984.

Education – For Puerto Ricans aged 12 to 44 years a positive relationship between lifetime cocaine use and education, similar to the one observed for marijuana use, is shown in table 3.2. The proportions of Puerto Ricans who had ever used the drug ranged from 23.1 percent for persons with less than a high school diploma to 30.7 percent for those with at least some college. However, unlike the relationship found in the marijuana data, this relationship also held true for current users.

Marital status – The largest percentage of ever users among the marital status categories was 26.2 percent for Puerto Ricans who have never been married. This was closely followed by 23.6 percent for persons who were married but who are now living singly. Nearly equal percentages of persons in each of these two categories were current users of cocaine (11.4 percent and 10.6 percent, respectively).

Country of birth – One-fourth of the Puerto Ricans born in the United States had at least tried cocaine compared with 17.8 percent of those born in Puerto Rico. Approximately eight percent of the Puerto Ricans born in Puerto Rico who had ever used cocaine had last done so in the past month, compared with 9.4 percent of the U.S.-born Puerto Ricans.

Total combined family income – Among the family income categories the largest percentage of Puerto Rican ever users was 26.0 percent for individuals whose family income was between $15,000 and $19,999. However, the largest percentage of current users was 13.2 percent for persons whose family income was between $20,000 and $34,999.

Poverty index – Over one-fourth (26.6 percent) of the Puerto Ricans living at or above the poverty level had ever used cocaine compared with 15.8 percent of those living below the poverty level. Puerto Ricans living at or above the poverty level also were nearly twice as likely as were those living below this level to be current users of cocaine (11.4 percent compared with 6.3 percent).

Cuban-Americans (table 3.3)

Comparisons for Cuban Americans in table 3.3 within categories were restricted to lifetime use because of the small sample size and low rate of cocaine use reported by sample persons from this population. However, when possible, percentages for the recency of use within categories were presented to enable comparisons with the other two populations.

Approximately 9 percent of Cuban-Americans had ever used cocaine; 3.8 percent were current users and 2.5 percent had last used it more than a year ago. The median age at which cocaine was first used by Cuban-Americans was 20 years for males and 21 years for females.

Age and Sex – Data in table 3.3 indicate that younger Cuban-Americans were 1.6 times as likely as were older Cuban-Americans to have ever used cocaine (12.1 percent compared with 7.4 percent). Cuban-American males were almost three times as likely as were females to have ever used the drug (14.3 percent compared with 4.9 percent).

Language of interview – Cuban-Americans who preferred to speak English during the interview were far more likely than were those who preferred to speak Spanish to have ever used cocaine (23.5 percent compared with 4.1 percent). Approximately eight percent of Cuban-Americans who preferred to speak English were current users.

Education and marital status – Cuban-Americans with at least some college education were nearly twice as likely as were those with less education to have ever used cocaine. Cuban-Americans who have never been married were 1.6 times as likely as were those who were married but who are now living singly to have ever used cocaine (16.5 percent percent compared with 10.1 percent), and they were nearly three times as likely as were those that are married and living with their spouses to have ever used the drug (16.5 percent compared with 5.9 percent).

Table 3.3 Percent distribution of Cuban-Americans aged 12 to 44 years by use of cocaine according to sociodemographic variables: Dade County, Florida, 1982-1984

	Period of Use						
	Past month	Past year[1]	Not past year[2]	Total (Ever)	Never used	Unknown/ No response	Total
Total[3]	3.8	2.9	2.5	9.2	90.4	0.4	100.0
Age[4]							
12-24	...	...	...	12.1	87.9	-	100.0
25-44	...	...	...	7.4	92.0	0.6	100.0
Sex							
Male	7.5*	4.5*	2.3*	14.3	85.4	0.4	100.0
Female	...	...	...	4.9	94.7	0.4	100.0
Language of Interview							
English	8.4*	8.2*	6.9*	23.5	76.5	-	100.0
Spanish	...	...	...	4.1	95.4	0.5	100.0
Education[4,5]							
1-High school graduate	...	...	...	7.8	91.9	0.3	100.0
Some college	...	...	...	15.3	84.0	0.7	100.0
Unknown/ No response	...	...	...	...	...	...	100.0
Total	4.5	3.1	3.1	10.7	88.9	0.5	100.0
Marital Status							
Under 14	...	...	...	-	100.0	-	100.0
Married, spouse in household	...	...	...	5.9	93.7	0.4	100.0
Married, but now single[6]	...	...	...	10.1	88.3	1.6	100.0
Never married	...	...	...	16.5	83.5	-	100.0
Country of birth							
Cuba	4.4*	2.4*	2.6*	9.4	90.1	0.5	100.0
United States	...	...	...	10.4	89.6	-	100.0
Other	...	...	...	...	...	...	100.0
Unknown/ No response	...	...	...	...	...	...	100.0

See footnotes at end of table

Table 3.3 Percent distribution of Cuban-Americans aged 12 to 44 years by use of cocaine according to sociodemographic variables: Dade County, Florida, 1982-1984 - Continued

	Period of Use						
	Past month	Past year[1]	Not past year[2]	Total (Ever)	Never used	Unknown/ No response	Total
Total[3]	3.8	2.9	2.5	9.2	90.4	0.4	100.0
Poverty index[7]							
At or above poverty	3.7*	3.5*	2.4*	9.6	90.1	0.3	100.0
Below poverty	...	...	...	7.9	91.2	0.9	100.0
Unknown/ No response	...	...	...	10.6*	89.4*	-*	100.0

1 Does not include past month use.
2 Used one or more years ago.
3 Does not apply to the distribution for education.
4 Category is combined because of small sample size.
5 Persons 12 to 16 years of age are not included in this distribution.
6 Category includes persons who are widowed, divorced, separated or married but whose spouse is not living in the household.
7 See chapter 1 footnote 5 for reference containing description of the poverty index.

Note: Percentages are calculated with weights provided by NCHS.
Source: Hispanic Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (January 1987 data file). Data were collected for Mexican-Americans beginning in July 1982 and ending in December 1983, for Cuban-Americans beginning in January 1983 and ending in mid-May 1983, and for Puerto Ricans beginning in mid-May 1983 and ending in december 1984.

Country of birth and Poverty index – There was little variation in lifetime use of cocaine according to country of birth. Cuban-Americans born in the United States were only slightly more likely than were those born in Cuba to have ever used cocaine (10.4 percent compared with 9.4 percent). Approximately 10 percent of the Cuban-Americans living at or above the poverty level had ever used cocaine compared with 7.9 percent of those living below the poverty level.

4. INHALANTS

This chapter presents data on the use of inhalants[1] by Mexican-Americans and Puerto Ricans. Prevalence of inhalant use could not be obtained for Cuban-Americans because of the small number of inhalant users (N = 6) among the respondents from this population. For the remaining two Hispanic populations data on the prevalence of inhalant use are presented according to whether individuals have ever used them, and if so, whether the use was during the past 30 days, in the past year (but not past month), or not in the past year. These data are presented for groups defined according to selected sociodemographic variables. In several instances, particularly in the data for Puerto Ricans, categories have been combined because of small sample sizes.

Mexican-Americans (table 4.1)

Data in table 4.1 suggest that inhalants were not widely used in the Mexican-American community. Only 6.4 percent of this population had ever used these substances. The median age at which inhalants were first used by Mexican-Americans was 15 years for males and 14 years for females. Approximately five percent of Mexican-Americans had last used inhalants more than a year ago, and less than one percent had used inhalants in the past month. This pattern of infrequent use/low current use held true across all of the sociodemographic variables.

For Mexican-Americans who had ever used inhalants the three leading types used were gasoline or lighter fluid (35.6 percent), shoe shine, glue or toluene (33.3 percent) and spray paint (33.2 percent). These three were followed by amyl nitrite or

[1] The inhalant types covered by the survey included gasoline or lighter fluid; spray paint; other aerosol sprays; shoe shine, glue or toluene; lacquer thinner or other paint solvents; amyl nitrite or "poppers"; halothene, ether or other anesthetics; nitrous oxide or "whippets"; and "locker room" odorizers.

Table 4.1 Percent distribution of Mexican-Americans aged 12 to 44 years by use of inhalants according to sociodemographic variables: Southwest United States, 1982-1984

	Period of Use						
	Past month	Past year[1]	Not past year[2]	Total (Ever)	Never used	Unknown/ No response	Total
Total[3]	0.4	0.7	5.3	6.4	93.2	0.5	100.0
Age[4]							
12-17	0.7	1.7	2.4	4.8	95.1	0.2	100.0
18-24	0.9	1.0	8.3	10.2	89.6	0.3	100.0
25-44	-	0.1	5.1	5.2	94.1	0.6	100.0
Sex							
Male	0.5	0.8	8.2	9.5	89.9	0.5	100.0
Female	0.2	0.6	2.3	3.1	96.6	0.4	100.0
Language of Interview							
English	0.4	0.8	6.9	8.1	91.6	0.4	100.0
Spanish	...	...	...	2.9	96.5	0.6	100.0
Education[4,5]							
1-12	0.2	0.5	5.8	6.5	93.1	0.5	100.0
High school graduate-Some college	0.4	0.5	6.5	7.4	92.1	0.4	100.0
Unknown/ No response	...	...	...	...	...	...	100.0
Total	0.3	0.5	6.1	6.9	92.6	0.5	100.0
Marital Status							
Under 14	...	...	...	1.8	98.3	-	100.0
Married, spouse in household	-	0.1	6.0	6.1	93.6	0.4	100.0
Married, but now single[6]	...	...	...	4.4	94.5	1.1	100.0
Never married	0.9	1.9	6.0	8.8	90.8	0.4	100.0
Unknown/ No response	...	...	...	...	...	...	100.0
Country of birth							
Mexico	...	...	...	3.0	96.5	0.5	100.0
United States	0.4	0.7	7.0	8.1	91.4	0.5	100.0
Other	...	...	...	...	...	...	100.0
Unknown/ No response	...	...	...	...	...	...	100.0

See footnotes at end of table

Table 4.1 Percent distribution of Mexican-Americans aged 12 to 44 years by use of inhalants according to sociodemographic variables: Southwest United States, 1982-1984 - Continued

	Period of Use						
	Past month	Past year[1]	Not past year[2]	Total (Ever)	Never used	Unknown/ No response	Total
Total[3]	0.4	0.7	5.3	6.4	93.2	0.5	100.0
Total combined family income[4]							
Under $15,000	0.2	0.5	6.1	6.8	92.7	0.5	100.0
$15,000-$24,999	0.4	0.9	6.0	7.3	92.4	0.3	100.0
$25,000 and above	0.4*	0.6*	3.7*	4.7	94.8	0.4	100.0
Unknown/ No response	...	...	...	6.6	92.1	1.3	100.0
Poverty index[7]							
At or above poverty	0.3	0.6	5.1	6.0	93.8	0.2	100.0
Below poverty	0.4	0.7	6.5	7.6	91.7	0.7	100.0
Unknown/ No response	...	...	...	6.6	92.1	1.3	100.0

1 Does not include past month use.
2 Used one or more years ago.
3 Does not apply to the distribution for education.
4 Category is combined because of small sample size.
5 Persons 12 to 16 years of age are not included in this distribution.
6 Category includes persons who are widowed, divorced, separated or married but whose spouse is not living in the household.
7 See chapter 1 footnote 5 for reference containing description of the poverty index.

Note: Percentages are calculated with weights provided by NCHS.
Source: Hispanic Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (January 1987 data file). Data were collected for Mexican-Americans beginning in July 1982 and ending in December 1983, for Cuban-Americans beginning in January 1983 and ending in mid-May 1983, and for Puerto Ricans beginning in mid-May 1983 and ending in December 1984.

"poppers" which were used by 17.4 percent of the inhalant users. Each of the remaining types of inhalants were used by less than 10 percent of the inhalant users.

Age – Among the three age categories the largest percentage of ever users of inhalants was 10.2 percent for 18 to 24 year olds. Approximately one percent of 18 to 24 year olds were current users.

Sex and Language of interview – Mexican-American males aged 12 to 44 years were over 3 times as likely as were females to have ever used inhalants (9.5 percent compared with 3.1 percent). However, males were only 2.5 times as likely as were females to be current users (0.5 percent compared with 0.2 percent). Approximately eight percent of Mexican-Americans who preferred to speak English during the interview had ever used inhalants compared with 2.9 percent for those who preferred to speak Spanish.

Education – There was little variation in lifetime inhalant use among Mexican-Americans aged 17 to 44 years with respect to education. However, Mexican-Americans who had graduated from high school or who had at least some college education were twice as likely as were those with less than a high school diploma to be current users (0.4 percent compared with 0.2 percent).

Marital status – Among the marital status categories the largest percentage of ever users of inhalants was 8.8 percent for persons who have never been married. The second largest percentage of ever users, contrary to the patterns observed for marijuana and cocaine use among Mexican-Americans, was for persons who are married and living with their spouses (6.1 percent).

Country of birth – Mexican-Americans born in the United States were nearly three times as likely as were those born in Mexico to have ever used inhalants (8.1 percent compared with 3.0 percent). However, only about one percent of U.S.-born Mexican-Americans had used these substances in the past year or the past month.

Total combined family income and Poverty index – Individuals in the lowest (under $15,000) and middle income brackets (between $15,000 and $24,999) were more likely than were those in the highest income bracket ($25,000 and above) to have tried inhalants (6.8 percent and 7.3 percent, respectively, compared with 4.7

percent). Data from table 4.1 also indicate that persons living below the poverty level were somewhat more likely than were those living at or above this level to have ever used inhalants (7.6 percent compared with 6.0 percent) and to have been current users of them (0.4 percent compared with 0.3 percent).

Puerto Ricans (table 4.2)

Puerto Ricans were even less likely than were Mexican-Americans to have ever used inhalants. Only 4.8 percent of Puerto Ricans had ever used inhalants, and 4.2 percent of them had last used these substances more than a year ago. The median age at which inhalants were first used by Puerto Ricans was 15 years for males and 16 years for females. Comparisons for Puerto Ricans on the recency of use of inhalants could not be made within sociodemographic categories because of the low rate of inhalant use among respondents from this population.

The order of the ranking of inhalants for Puerto Ricans differed from the ordering for Mexican-Americans. The three leading types of inhalants among Puerto Ricans who had ever used inhalants were shoe shine, glue or toluene (43.8 percent), amyl nitrite or "poppers" (34.2 percent), and locker room odorizers (31.4 percent). Each of the remaining inhalant types, including two of the three leading types found among Mexican-Americans, were used by 11 percent or fewer of the Puerto Rican inhalant users.

Age and Sex – Only 1.9 percent of Puerto Ricans aged 12 to 17 years had ever used inhalants compared with 4.9 percent for those aged 25 to 44 years and 8.1 percent for those aged 18 to 24 years . Data in table 4.2 also show that Puerto Rican males were over twice as likely as were females to have ever used inhalants (7.1 percent compared with 3.2 percent).

Language of interview and Education – With respect to language preference, Puerto Ricans who preferred to speak English during the interview were twice as likely as were those who preferred to speak Spanish to have ever used inhalants (6.1 percent compared with 2.9 percent). With respect to education there was little variation in the proportions of lifetime use of inhalants between Puerto Ricans who had

Table 4.2 Percent distribution of Puerto Ricans aged 12 to 44 years by use of inhalants according to sociodemographic variables: New York City area, 1982-1984

	Period of Use						
	Past month	Past year[1]	Not past year[2]	Total (Ever)	Never used	Unknown/ No response	Total
Total[3]	0.4	0.2	4.2	4.8	94.9	0.3	100.0
Age[4]							
12-17	...	...	...	1.9	98.0	0.2	100.0
18-24	...	...	...	8.1	91.9	-	100.0
25-44	...	...	...	4.9	94.7	0.4	100.0
Sex							
Male	0.9*	0.4*	5.8*	7.1	92.5	0.4	100.0
Female	...	...	...	3.2	96.6	0.3	100.0
Language of Interview							
English	0.5*	0.1*	5.5*	6.1	94.0	-	100.0
Spanish	...	...	...	2.9	96.5	0.6	100.0
Education[4,5]							
1-12	...	...	...	5.4	94.1	0.5	100.0
High school graduate-Some college	...	...	...	6.0	94.0	-	100.0
Unknown/ No response	...	...	...	...	...	...	100.0
Total	0.5	0.3	5.0	5.8	94.0	0.3	100.0
Marital Status							
Under 14	...	...	...	0.5	99.0	0.6	100.0
Married, spouse in household	...	...	...	4.0	95.6	0.4	100.0
Married, but now single[6]	...	...	...	4.6	95.4	-	100.0
Never married	0.8*	0.5*	5.0*	6.3	93.4	0.3	100.0
Unknown/ No response	...	...	...	...	...	...	100.0
Country of birth							
Puerto Rico	...	...	..	4.9	94.7	0.4	100.0
United States	...	...	...	4.9	95.0	0.1	100.0
Other	...	...	...	...	...	...	100.0
Unknown/ No response	...	...	...	...	...	...	100.0

See footnotes at end of table

Table 4.2 Percent distribution of Puerto Ricans aged 12 to 44 years by use of inhalants according to sociodemographic variables: New York City area, 1982-1984 - Continued

	Period of Use						
	Past month	Past year[1]	Not past year[2]	Total (Ever)	Never used	Unknown/ No response	Total
Total[3]	0.4	0.2	4.2	4.8	94.9	0.3	100.0
Total combined family income[4]							
Under $15,000	...	...	...	4.4	95.0	0.5	100.0
$15,000-$24,999	...	...	...	5.0	95.0	-	100.0
$25,000 and above	...	...	...	6.0	94.0	-	100.0
Unknown/ No response	...	...	...	4.8	95.2	-	100.0
Poverty index[7]							
At or above poverty	0.3*	0.1*	5.7*	6.1	93.7	0.2	100.0
Below poverty	...	...	..	3.0	96.6	0.4	100.0
Unknown/ No response	...	...	...	4.8	95.2	-	100.0

1 Does not include past month use.
2 Used one or more years ago.
3 Does not apply to the distribution for education.
4 Category is combined because of small sample size.
5 Persons 12 to 16 years of age are not included in this distribution.
6 Category includes persons who are widowed, divorced, separated or married but whose spouse is not living in the household.
7 See chapter 1 footnote 5 for reference containing description of the poverty index.

Note: Percentages are calculated with weights provided by NCHS.
Source: Hispanic Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (January 1987 data file). Data were collected for Mexican-Americans beginning in July 1982 and ending in December 1983, for Cuban-Americans beginning in January 1983 and ending in mid-May 1983, and for Puerto Ricans beginning in mid-May 1983 and ending in December 1984.

graduated from high school or had at least some college and those who had less than a high school diploma (6.0 percent compared with 5.4 percent).

Marital status – There was little variation in the percentages of lifetime use of inhalants among the marital status categories. Percentages ranged from 4.0 percent for persons who are married and living with their spouses to 6.3 percent for persons who have never been married.

Country of birth – There was no variation in the percentages of ever use of inhalants among Puerto Ricans according to country of birth (4.9 percent each for Puerto Rican-born and U.S.-born).

Total combined family income and Poverty Index – There was a slight positive relationship between family income and lifetime use of inhalants for Puerto Ricans. Percentages ranged from 4.4 percent for individuals with family incomes below $15,000 to 6.0 percent for those with family incomes of $25,000 or more. Categorization based on the poverty index emphasized this relationship; Puerto Ricans living at or above the poverty level were twice as likely as were those living below this level to have ever used inhalants (6.1 percent compared with 3.0 percent).

5. SEDATIVES

This chapter presents data on the non-medical use of sedatives[1] by Mexican-Americans and Puerto Ricans. Prevalence estimates could not be obtained for Cuban-Americans because of the small number of sedative users (N = 14) among sample persons from this population. For the remaining two Hispanic populations data are presented on the prevalence of use of sedatives according to whether individuals had ever used them, and if so, whether the use was during the past month, in the past year (but not past month), or not in the past year. These data are presented overall and for groups defined on the basis of selected sociodemographic variables. In several instances, particularly for Puerto Ricans, categories have been combined because of small sample sizes.

Mexican-Americans (table 5.1)

Data in table 5.1 indicate that only 5.0 percent of Mexican-Americans aged 12 to 44 years had ever used sedatives, this was the lowest prevalence for Mexican-Americans of any of the four drugs discussed in this report. Approximately three percent of Mexican-Americans had last used these drugs more than a year ago. The percentage of current users was 0.7 percent.

Age and Sex – Older Mexican-Americans were 1.5 times as likely as were younger Mexican-Americans to have ever used sedatives (5.9 percent of those 25 to 44 years of age compared with 4.0 percent of those aged 12 to 24 years). However, younger persons were about equally as likely as were older persons to have been current sedative users. With regard to sex, Mexican-Americans males were more than

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[1] For purposes of this report the phrases "sedative use", "use of sedatives" and "sedative users" refer to the nonmedical use of sedatives. Use of prescribed sedatives in accordance with a physician's directions or use of over-the-counter sedatives in a manner consistent with the product label are not included.

Table 5.1 Percent distribution of Mexican-Americans aged 12 to 44 years by use of sedatives according to sociodemographic variables: Southwest United States, 1982-1984

	Period of Use						
	Past month	Past year[1]	Not past year[2]	Total (Ever)	Never used	Unknown/ No response	Total
Total[3]	0.7	1.0	3.3	5.0	94.7	0.3	100.0
Age[4]							
12-24	0.7	1.3	2.0	4.0	95.6	0.3	100.0
25-44	0.6	0.8	4.5	5.9	93.8	0.3	100.0
Sex							
Male	1.1	1.5	4.7	7.3	92.1	0.5	100.0
Female	0.3*	0.5*	1.8*	2.6	97.4	0.1	100.0
Language of Interview							
English	0.9	1.3	4.1	6.3	93.4	0.3	100.0
Spanish	...	...	...	2.5	97.5	-	100.0
Education[4,5]							
1-12	1.0	0.8	2.7	4.5	95.2	0.3	100.0
High school graduate	0.5*	2.2*	5.0*	7.7	92.0	0.3	100.0
Some college	0.7*	0.4*	6.3*	7.4	92.1	0.5	100.0
Unknown/ No response	...	...	...	...	...	...	100.0
Total	0.8	1.0	4.0	5.8	93.8	0.4	100.0
Marital Status							
Under 14	...	...	...	0.3	99.7	-	100.0
Married, spouse in household	0.5	0.8	4.0	5.3	94.4	0.3	100.0
Married, but now single[6]	...	...	...	7.5	92.5	-	100.0
Never married	0.7	1.5	2.6	4.8	94.9	0.4	100.0
Unknown/ No response	...	...	...	...	...	...	100.0
Country of birth							
Mexico	...	...	...	2.8	97.2	-	100.0
United States	0.9	1.3	4.0	6.2	93.4	0.4	100.0
Other	...	...	...	...	...	...	100.0
Unknown/ No response	...	...	...	...	...	...	100.0

See footnotes at end of table

Table 5.1 Percent distribution of Mexican-Americans aged 12 to 44 years by use of sedatives according to sociodemographic variables: Southwest United States, 1982-1984 - Continued

	Period of Use						
	Past month	Past year[1]	Not past year[2]	Total (Ever)	Never used	Unknown/ No response	Total
Total[3]	0.7	1.0	3.3	5.0	94.7	0.3	100.0
Total combined family income[4]							
Under $15,000	0.8	1.1	3.1	5.0	94.7	0.3	100.0
$15,000-$24,999	0.4*	0.2*	4.1*	4.7	95.3	-	100.0
$25,000 and above	0.5*	1.2*	3.6*	5.3	94.4	0.4	100.0
Unknown/ No response	...	...	...	5.0	93.9	1.1	100.0
Poverty index[7]							
At or above poverty	0.6	0.9	4.0	5.5	94.4	0.2	100.0
Below poverty	0.7*	0.8*	2.3*	3.8	95.8	0.5	100.0
Unknown/ No response	...	...	...	5.0	93.9	1.1	100.0

1 Does not include past month use.
2 Used one or more years ago.
3 Does not apply to the distribution for education.
4 Category is combined because of small sample size.
5 Persons 12 to 16 years of age are not included in this distribution.
6 Category includes persons who are widowed, divorced, separated or married but whose spouse is not living in the household.
7 See chapter 1 footnote 5 for reference containing description of the poverty index.

Note: Percentages are calculated with weights provided by NCHS.
Source: Hispanic Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (January 1987 data file). Data were collected for Mexican-Americans beginning in July 1982 and ending in December 1983, for Cuban-Americans beginning in January 1983 and ending in mid-May 1983, and for Puerto Ricans beginning in mid-May 1983 and ending in December 1984.

twice as likely as were females to have ever used sedatives (7.3 percent compared with 2.6 percent).

Language of interview and Education – Mexican-Americans who preferred to speak English during the interview were twice as likely as were those who preferred to speak Spanish to have ever used sedatives. Data also show that 7.7 percent of Mexican-Americans who have a high school diploma and 7.4 percent who have at least some college had ever used sedatives compared with 4.5 percent of those with less than a high school diploma. However, less educated persons were more likely than were more educated persons to have been current users of sedatives (1.0 percent of those with less than a high school diploma compared with 0.5 percent of those with a high school diploma and 0.7 percent of those with at least some college).

Marital status – Among the marital status categories, the largest percentage of ever users of sedatives was 7.5 percent for Mexican-Americans who were married but who are now living singly. Approximately five percent each of persons who have never been married and persons who are married and living with their spouses had ever used sedatives.

Country of birth – Mexican-Americans born in the United States were 2.2 times more likely to have ever used sedatives than were those born in Mexico (6.2 percent compared with 2.8 percent).

Total combined family income and Poverty index – There was little variation in the percentage of ever users of sedatives among the family income categories. Percentages for each of the three categories were approximately five percent. However, categorization of Mexican-Americans according to the poverty index indicates that persons living at or above the poverty level were nearly 1.5 times as likely as were those living below this level to have ever used sedatives (5.5 percent compared with 3.8 percent).

Puerto Ricans (table 5.2)

Data in tables 5.2 and 4.2 suggest that Puerto Ricans were more likely to have used sedatives than inhalants (5.8 percent compared with 4.8 percent). However, only

Table 5.2 Percent distribution of Puerto Ricans aged 12 to 44 years by use of sedatives according to sociodemographic variables: New York City area, 1982-1984

	Period of Use						
	Past month	Past year[1]	Not past year[2]	Total (Ever)	Never used	Unknown/ No response	Total
Total[3]	0.1	1.3	4.4	5.8	94.1	0.2	100.0
Age[4]							
12-24	...	...	...	3.3	96.7	-	100.0
25-44	0.2*	1.3*	6.9*	8.4	91.5	0.1	100.0
Sex							
Male	0.2*	2.0*	6.9*	9.1	90.9	0.1	100.0
Female	...	...	...	3.5	96.3	0.2	100.0
Language of Interview							
English	0.1	1.6	5.5	7.2	92.7	0.1	100.0
Spanish	...	...	...	3.4	96.3	0.3	100.0
Education[4,5]							
1-12	...	...	...	4.9	94.9	0.2	100.0
High school graduate	...	...	..	6.3	93.7	-	100.0
Some college	...	...	...	14.3	85.7	-	100.0
Unknown/ No response	...	...	...	...	...	...	100.0
Total	0.1	1.5	5.5	7.1	92.8	0.1	100.0
Marital Status							
Under 14	...	...	...	0.5	98.9	0.6	100.0
Married, spouse in household	...	...	...	7.3	92.7	-	100.0
Married, but now single[6]	...	...	...	6.4	93.2	0.4	100.0
Never married	...	...	...	5.6	94.3	0.1	100.0
Unknown/ No response	...	...	...	...	...	...	100.0
Country of birth							
Puerto Rico	...	...	...	4.3	95.6	0.1	100.0
United States	0.2*	1.9*	5.4*	7.5	92.4	0.2	100.0
Other	...	...	...	...	...	...	100.0
Unknown/ No response	...	...	...	...	...	...	100.0

See footnotes at end of table

Table 5.2 Percent distribution of Puerto Ricans aged 12 to 44 years by use of sedatives according to sociodemographic variables: New York City area, 1982-1984 - Continued

	Period of Use						
	Past month	Past year[1]	Not past year[2]	Total (Ever)	Never used	Unknown/ No response	Total
Total combined family income[4]							
Under $15,000	0.1*	1.4*	3.5*	5.0	94.7	0.3	100.0
$15,000-$24,999	...	...	...	4.8	95.2	-	100.0
$25,000 and above	...	...	...	8.2	91.8	-	100.0
Unknown/ No response	...	...	...	7.2	92.8	-	100.0
Poverty index[7]							
At or above poverty	-*	1.3*	5.8*	7.1	92.9	-	100.0
Below poverty	...	...	...	3.5	96.1	0.4	100.0
Unknown/ No response	...	...	...	7.2	92.8	-	100.0

1 Does not include past month use.
2 Used one or more years ago.
3 Does not apply to the distribution for education.
4 Category is combined because of small sample size.
5 Persons 12 to 16 years of age are not included in this distribution.
6 Category includes persons who are widowed, divorced, separated or married but whose spouse is not living in the household.
7 See chapter 1 footnote 5 for reference containing description of the poverty index.

Note: Percentages are calculated with weights provided by NCHS.
Source: Hispanic Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (January 1987 data file). Data were collected for Mexican-Americans beginning in July 1982 and ending in December 1983, for Cuban-Americans beginning in January 1983 and ending in mid-May 1983, and for Puerto Ricans beginning in mid-May 1983 and ending in December 1984.

0.1 percent of Puerto Ricans had used sedatives in the past 30 days. Comparisons for Puerto Ricans within categories are limited to lifetime (ever) use because of the low rate of sedative use reported by respondents from this population.

Age and Sex – Puerto Ricans aged 25 to 44 years were almost 3 times as likely as were those aged 12 to 24 years to have used sedatives sometime during their life (8.4 percent compared with 3.3 percent). Data in table 5.2 also reveal that males were over twice as likely as were females to have ever used sedatives (9.1 percent compared with 3.5 percent).

Language of interview – Puerto Ricans who preferred to speak English during the interview were more than twice as likely as were those who preferred to speak Spanish to have at least tried sedatives (7.2 percent compared with 3.4 percent).

Education – Approximately 14 percent of Puerto Ricans with at least some college education had ever used sedatives, compared with 6.3 percent for high school graduates, and 4.9 percent for those with less than a high school diploma.

Marital status – Unlike the other three drugs, the largest percentage of lifetime users of sedatives among Puerto Ricans differentiated according to marital status was for those who are married and living with their spouses. Approximately seven percent of these individuals had at least tried sedatives compared with 6.4 percent of those who were married but who are now living singly, and 5.6 percent of those who have never been married.

Country of birth, Total combined family income, and Poverty index – Puerto Ricans born in the United States were almost twice as likely as were those born in Puerto Rico to have at least tried sedatives (7.5 percent compared with 4.3 percent). Data in table 5.2 also show that 8.2 percent of Puerto Ricans whose family income was $25,000 or more had ever used sedatives compared with 5.0 percent of persons whose families earned less than $15,000 and 4.8 percent of persons whose families earned between $15,000 and $24,999. Data for the poverty index indicate that Puerto Ricans living at or above the poverty level were more likely than were those living below this level to have ever used sedatives in their lifetime (7.1 percent compared with 3.5 percent).

6. DISCUSSION: CROSSCULTURAL COMPARISONS

This chapter focuses on the crosscultural comparisons among the three Hispanic populations studied for the use of marijuana, cocaine, inhalants, and sedatives. Specifically, this approach identifies points of similarity and difference in the use of the four selected drugs among the three culturally distinct Hispanic populations.

In general, Mexican-Americans and Puerto Ricans were equally more likely than were Cuban-Americans to have ever used any of the four selected drugs or to have been current users of them. Over 40 percent each of Mexican-Americans (41.6 percent) and Puerto Ricans (42.7 percent) had ever used marijuana compared with 20.1 percent of Cuban-Americans. Inhalants and sedatives were not widely used by person from any of the three Hispanic populations. Less than seven percent each of Mexican-Americans and Puerto Ricans had ever used either of these two drugs, and less than one percent of each were current users of either drug. Reporting of inhalant and sedative use was so low among Cuban-American sample persons that prevalence estimates for these drugs could not be obtained for this population.

The general pattern of similarity among Mexican-Americans and Puerto Ricans was disrupted by the prevalences for cocaine use. Cocaine had ever been used by proportionately more Puerto Ricans (21.5 percent) than by either Mexican-Americans (11.1 percent) or Cuban-Americans (9.2 percent). The uniqueness of patterns of cocaine use also was apparent in the proportion of current users among the three Hispanic populations. While the largest percentage of current cocaine users continued to be for Puerto Ricans (8.9 percent), Cuban-Americans were more likely to be current users than were Mexican-Americans (3.8 percent compared with 2.4 percent).

Some of the variation observed among Hispanic populations in the use of the four selected drugs, across the various sociodemographic categories, can be attributed to the differences in the age structures between Cuban-Americans on the one hand, and Mexican-Americans and Puerto Ricans on the other. Drug abuse is

commonly reported as a particular problem among youths and young adults; data presented according to age from this report tend to support this perception. As seen in table 1.1, about one-third of Cuban-Americans were between the ages of 35 and 44 years, compared with approximately one-fifth each of Mexican-Americans and Puerto Ricans. Therefore, it is possible that some of the variation in prevalences across sociodemographic categories observed for these three populations is due to the fact that Cuban-Americans are an older population and, consequently, are not as likely as are the other two Hispanic populations to have ever used drugs. However, efforts were made to minimize the effects of age in several of the sociodemographic comparisons. For example, persons aged 12 to 16 years were excluded from the tabulations for education; persons under 14 years of age were tabulated separately for marital status; and income was measured with total combined family income rather than personal income. Despite these efforts it is possible that age remains a confounding factor in some comparisons.

Data on the median age at first use of marijuana, cocaine and inhalants, by sex, indicate that among Mexican-Americans and Puerto Ricans, inhalants were generally the first substances to be used (15 years old for males and 14 to 16 years old for females). Among the three Hispanic populations, marijuana was first used generally at an earlier age than was cocaine (15 to 17 years old for males and 16 to 18 years old for females for marijuana compared with 17 to 20 years old for males and 19 to 21 years old for females for cocaine). Puerto Rican and Cuban-American (data permitting) males had a lower median age at first use of marijuana, cocaine and inhalants than did their female counterparts. For Mexican-Americans, males and females had the same median age at first use for marijuana (16 years) and for cocaine (20 years). However, for inhalants, Mexican-American females had a lower median age at first use than did males (14 years compared with 15 years). The lowest median age at first use of inhalants was 14 years for Mexican-American females, two years earlier than their Puerto Rican counterparts (Cuban-American data was unavailable because of small sample sizes). Mexican-American and Puerto Rican males began using inhalants at a median age of 15 years. Mexican-Americans of both sexes and Puerto Rican females began using marijuana at a median age of 16 years, while Puerto Rican males began a year earlier. Cuban-Americans, regardless of sex, began using marijuana at a later median age than did either Mexican-Americans or Puerto Ricans; 17 years for males and 18 years for females. Only Puerto Ricans, regardless of sex, had a median age of first use of cocaine of less than 20 years (17 years for

males and 19 years for females). For Mexican-Americans of both sexes and Cuban-American males the median age of first use of cocaine was 20 years and for Cuban-American females it was 21 years.

Age – There was considerable variation in the use of the four selected drugs according to age among Mexican-Americans, Puerto Ricans and Cuban-Americans (reliable data on only marijuana and cocaine use were available for Cuban-Americans). Mexican-Americans and Puerto Ricans 18 to 24 years old and 25 to 34 years old were far more likely to have ever used marijuana and cocaine or to have been current users of these drugs than were those either younger or older. Additionally, Mexican-Americans and Puerto Ricans 18 to 24 years old were more likely to have ever used inhalants than were those either younger or older. The only instance for which older persons from these two Hispanic populations were more likely than were younger persons to have ever used one of the four selected drugs was for sedative use. Cuban-Americans 12 to 24 years of age were more likely to have ever used marijuana and cocaine and to have been current users of marijuana (reliable data for current use of cocaine was not available for Cuban-Americans) than were Cuban-Americans 25 to 44 years of age.

Sex – Regardless of the drug used, Hispanic (excluding Cuban-Americans for inhalant and sedative use for which there were insufficient data to produce prevalence estimates) males were always more likely either to have ever used any of the four selected drugs or to have been current users of them than were Hispanic females. For Mexican-Americans and Cuban-Americans, in general, males were two to three times as likely as were females to have ever used the four selected drugs. For example, 54.2 percent of Mexican-American males had ever used marijuana compared with 27.9 percent of Mexican-American females (see table 2.1). Similarly, 28.2 percent of Cuban-American males had ever used marijuana compared with 13.1 percent of females (see table 2.3). In contrast, while Puerto Rican males were always more likely to have ever used any of the four selected drugs than were females, the discrepancy was not as large as it was for Mexican- and Cuban-Americans. For example, 52.9 percent of Puerto Rican males had ever used marijuana compared with 35.8 percent of Puerto Rican females (see table 2.2).

Language of interview – In general, Hispanics (excluding Cuban-Americans for inhalant and sedative use for which there were insufficient data to produce prevalence

estimates) who preferred to speak English during the interview were as much as two to three times more likely to have ever used, or to have been current users of, any of the four drugs studied than were those who preferred to speak Spanish. However, Cuban-Americans who preferred to speak English during the interview were more than three times as likely to have ever used marijuana, over four times as likely to have been current users of marijuana, and almost six times as likely to have ever used cocaine, than were Cuban-Americans who preferred to speak Spanish.

Education – Hispanics (excluding Cuban-Americans for sedative use for which there were insufficient data to produce prevalence estimates) who were high school graduates or who had attended college were usually more likely than were those with less education to have ever used marijuana, cocaine or sedatives (There was little variation in the proportions for inhalants). This relationship did not, however, always hold true for current use. For example, the largest percentage of current users of marijuana among Mexican-Americans was 18 percent for those with an education between 7th and 12th grades.

Marital status – Hispanics (excluding Cuban-Americans for inhalant and sedative use for which there were insufficient data to produce prevalence estimates) who were single (i.e. were either never married or married but now living singly) were generally more likely to have used any of the four selected drugs, and to have been current users of them, than were married Hispanics living with their spouses. There were three exceptions to this finding: (1) Although the differences were small, Puerto Ricans who were married and living with their spouses were more likely to have ever used sedatives than were their single counterparts (7.3 percent compared with 6.4 percent of those who were married but who are now living singly and 5.6 percent for those who have never been married); (2) Mexican-Americans who were married but who are now living singly were more likely to have ever used sedatives (7.5 percent) than were either those who were married and living with their spouses (5.3 percent) or those that have never been married (4.8 percent); and, (3) Mexican-Americans who had never been married were more likely to have ever used inhalants (8.8 percent) than were either those who were married and living with their spouses (6.1 percent) or those who were married but who are now living singly (4.4 percent).

Country of birth – For Mexican-Americans there was a tendency for those who were born in the United States to be approximately twice as likely as were those born

in Mexico to have ever used any of the four drugs studied or to have been current users of them. Puerto Ricans born in the United States were more likely to have ever used marijuana, cocaine, and sedatives than were those born in Puerto Rico (there was little variation in the lifetime percentages for inhalant use according to country of birth for Puerto Ricans). Puerto Ricans born in the United States were somewhat more likely to have been current users of marijuana and cocaine than were those born in Puerto Rico. Data for Cuban-Americans on marijuana and cocaine (the two drugs for which reliable data are available for this population) indicate that there was little difference in prevalences between those that were born in the United States and those born in Cuba.

Total combined family income – Data on family income was limited to Mexican-Americans and Puerto Ricans because of the small sample of Cuban-Americans. For Puerto Ricans there was a positive, though sometimes weak, relationship between the use of any of the four selected drugs and total combined family income. No single consistent pattern emerged, however, from this analysis for Mexican-Americans. While Mexican-Americans who had ever used marijuana or who were current users of cocaine did show a positive relationship between drug use and income, other groups of users did not. For example, the largest percentage of Mexican-Americans who were current users of marijuana was 15.2 percent for those whose families earned less then $10,000. Furthermore, data for Mexican-Americans who had ever used cocaine showed a U-shaped distribution of cocaine use according to family income.

Poverty index – Data for the poverty index were less ambiguous than were those for total combined family income. In general, Hispanics (excluding Cuban-Americans for inhalant and sedative use for which there were insufficient data to produce prevalence estimates) living at or above the poverty level were more likely (as much as two times more likely) to have ever used any of the four selected drugs or to have been current users of them than were those living below the poverty level. An exception to this finding was the data for Mexican-Americans who were current users of marijuana; those living below the poverty level were more likely than were those living above this level to have been current users.

APPENDIX A

PERCENT DISTRIBUTIONS OF HISPANICS 45 TO 74 YEARS OF AGE BY SOCIODEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES AND MARIJUANA PREVALENCES FOR MEXICAN-AMERICANS AND PUERTO RICANS 45 TO 74 YEARS OF AGE.

Table A.1 presents the weighted percent distributions for the sociodemographic variables for persons of Hispanic origin aged 45 to 74 years residing in the areas represented by the study's sample universes.

Survey questions on drugs for sample persons aged 45 to 74 years were limited to the use of marijuana and sedatives. Of these two drugs only marijuana use among Mexican-Americans and Puerto Ricans yielded sufficient samples to produce prevalence estimates. Tables A.2 and A.3 present these prevalences for Mexican-Americans and Puerto Ricans, respectively, according to the sociodemographic variables. These were the only tabulations that could be presented for marijuana use because of the low rates of use among older Hispanic-Americans.

Table A.1 Weighted percent distribution of Hispanics 45 to 74 years of age by sociodemographic classification variables according to subpopulation: Southwest United States, New York City area, and Dade County, Florida, 1982-1984

	Subpopulation		
	Mexican-American (N = 1250)	Puerto Rican (N = 538)	Cuban-American (N = 510)
Age			
45-54	47.4	53.5	46.5
55-74	52.6	46.5	53.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Sex			
Male	46.6	40.5	45.8
Female	53.4	59.5	54.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Language			
English	46.1	21.3	2.6
Spanish	53.9	78.7	97.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Education			
1- 6	47.8	37.0	35.7
7-12	28.5	35.9	24.3
High School Graduate	14.1	16.3	16.8
At Least Some College	7.1	9.7	22.0
Unknown/No Response	2.4	1.0	1.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Marital status			
Married, Spouse in Household	72.8	54.4	70.3
Married, but now single[1]	22.2	38.3	23.3
Never Married	3.4	6.3	5.8
Unknown/No Response	1.7	0.5	0.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
State or country of birth			
Cuba	-	1.2	98.5
Mexico	34.1	-	-
Puerto Rico	-	90.0	-
United States	64.6	6.6	0.8
Other	0.1	0.9	0.4
Unknown/No Response	1.2	1.4	0.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

See footnotes at end of table

Table A.1 Weighted percent distribution of Hispanics 45 to 74 years of age by sociodemographic classification variables according to subpopulation: Southwest United States, New York City area, and Dade County, Florida, 1982-1984

	Subpopulation		
	Mexican-American (N = 1250)	Puerto Rican (N = 538)	Cuban-American (N = 510)
Total combined family income			
Under $10,000	32.9	44.9	27.9
$10,000-$14,999	15.0	11.4	16.9
$15,000-$19,999	13.5	12.0	11.4
$20,000-$24,999	8.6	5.0	12.3
$25,000-$34,999	9.9	7.0	11.5
$35,000 and above	9.2	13.2	11.9
Unknown/No Response	10.9	6.4	8.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Poverty index[2]			
At or Above Poverty	60.4	54.0	73.1
Below Poverty	28.8	39.5	18.8
Unknown/No Response	10.8	6.5	8.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

[1] Category includes persons who are widowed, divorced, separated or married but whose spouse is not living in the household.

[2] See chapter 1 footnote 5 for reference containing description of the poverty index.

Note: Percentages are calculated with weights provided by NCHS.

Source: Hispanic Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (Janurary 1987 data file). Data were collected for Mexican-Americans beginning in July 1982 and ending in December 1983, for Cuban-Americans beginning in January 1983 and ending in mid-May 1983, and for Puerto Ricans beginning in mid-May 1983 and ending in December 1984.

Table A.2 Percent distribution of Mexican-Americans aged 45 to 74 years by use of marijuana according to sociodemographic variables: Southwest United States, 1982-1984

	Period of Use						
	Past month	Past year[1]	Not past year[2]	Total (Ever)	Never used	Unknown/ No response	Total
Total	0.8	1.3	7.9	10.0	89.7	0.4	100.0
Age							
45-54	1.2	1.7	10.3	13.2	86.3	0.5	100.0
55-74	0.4*	0.9*	5.8*	7.1	92.6	0.2	100.0
Sex							
Male	1.7	2.6	14.2	18.5	81.3	0.3	100.0
Female	...	...	...	2.6	96.9	0.5	100.0
Language							
English	1.4	2.3	12.6	16.3	83.6	0.2	100.0
Spanish	0.3*	0.4*	3.9*	4.6	94.9	0.5	100.0
Education[3]							
1- 6	0.3*	0.5*	4.7*	5.5	94.0	0.6	100.0
7-12	1.3*	2.1*	11.4*	14.8	85.3	-	100.0
High school graduate- Some college	1.4*	2.0*	10.2*	13.6	86.0	0.4	100.0
Unknown/ No response	...	...	...	11.4	88.6	-	100.0
Marital Status							
Married, spouse in household	0.4	0.9	8.8	10.1	89.4	0.5	100.0
Married, but now single[4]	...	...	...	10.4	89.6	-	100.0
Never married	...	...	...	7.1*	92.9*	-*	100.0
Unknown/ No response	...	...	...	...	...	...	100.0
Country of birth							
Mexico	...	...	...	5.4	94.5	0.1	100.0
United States	1.0	1.4	10.0	12.4	87.0	0.6	100.0
Other	...	...	...	...	...	...	100.0
Unknown/ No response	...	...	...	...	...	...	100.0

See footnotes at end of table

Table A.2 Percent distribution of Mexican-Americans aged 45 to 74 years by use of marijuana according to sociodemographic variables: Southwest United States, 1982-1984 - Continued

	Period of Use						
	Past month	Past year[1]	Not past year[2]	Total (Ever)	Never used	Unknown/ No response	Total
Total	0.8	1.3	7.9	10.0	89.7	0.4	100.0
Total combined family income[3]							
Under $10,000	-*	1.3*	6.7*	8.0	91.7	0.4	100.0
$10,000-$19,999	1.3*	0.9*	7.8*	10.0	90.0	-	100.0
$20,000 and above	0.6*	2.1*	10.9*	13.6	86.0	0.3	100.0
Unknown/ No response	...	...	...	6.6	92.0	1.4	100.0
Poverty index[3]							
At or above poverty	0.9	1.8	8.9	11.6	88.3	0.2	100.0
Below poverty	...	...	...	8.3	91.7	-	100.0
Unknown/ No response	...	...	...	6.6	92.0	1.4	100.0

1 Does not include past month use.
2 Used one or more years ago.
3 Category is combined because of small sample size.
4 Category includes persons who are widowed, divorced, separated or married but whose spouse is not living in the household.
5 See chapter 1 footnote 5 for reference containing description of the poverty index.

Note: Percentages are calculated with weights provided by NCHS.
Source: Hispanic Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (January 1987 data file). Data were collected for Mexican-Americans beginning in July 1982 and ending in December 1983, for Cuban-Americans beginning in January 1983 and ending in mid-May 1983, and for Puerto Ricans beginning in mid-May 1983 and ending in December 1984.

Table A.3 Percent distribution of Puerto Ricans aged 45 to 74 years by use of marijuana according to sociodemographic variables: New York City area, 1982-1984

	Period of Use						
	Past month	Past year[1]	Not past year[2]	Total (Ever)	Never used	Unknown/ No response	Total
Total	0.5	0.5	6.6	7.6	92.2	0.1	100.0
Age							
45-54	...	...	...	8.2	91.6	0.3	100.0
55-74	...	...	...	7.1	93.0	-	100.0
Sex							
Male	...	...	...	13.1	86.5	0.4	100.0
Female	...	...	...	3.6	96.1	0.2	100.0
Language							
English	...	...	...	22.5	77.5	-	100.0
Spanish	...	...	...	3.4	96.2	0.4	100.0
Education[3]							
1- 6	...	...	...	2.6	97.4	-	100.0
7-12	...	...	...	6.0	93.1	0.8	100.0
High school graduate-							
Some college	...	...	...	16.8	83.2	-	100.0
Unknown/ No response	...	...	...	-	100.0	-	100.0
Marital Status							
Married, spouse in household	...	...	...	9.1	90.7	0.3	100.0
Married, but now single[4]	...	...	...	6.1	93.9	-	100.0
Never married	...	...	...	2.8*	95.0*	2.3*	100.0
Unknown/ No response	...	...	...	...	...	...	100.0
Country of birth							
Puerto Rico	...	...	...	4.1	95.5	0.3	100.0
United States	...	...	...	...	...	...	100.0
Other	...	...	...	...	...	...	100.0
Unknown/ No response	...	...	...	...	...	...	100.0

See footnotes at end of table

Table A.3 Percent distribution of Puerto Ricans aged 45 to 74 years by use of marijuana according to sociodemographic variables: New York City area, 1982-1984 - Continued

	Period of Use						
	Past month	Past year[1]	Not past year[2]	Total (Ever)	Never used	Unknown/ No response	Total
Total	0.5	0.5	6.6	7.6	92.2	0.1	100.0
Total combined family income[4]							
Under $10,000	...	...	...	4.7	94.7	0.7	100.0
$10,000-$19,999	...	...	...	5.8	94.2	-	100.0
$20,000 and above	...	...	...	12.0	88.0	-	100.0
Unknown/ No response	...	...	...	15.8*	84.2*	-*	100.0
Poverty index[5]							
At or above poverty	...	...	...	8.7	91.0	0.3	100.0
Below poverty	...	...	...	4.6	95.1	0.4	100.0
Unknown/ No response	...	...	...	15.8*	84.2*	-*	100.0

1 Does not include past month use.
2 Used one or more years ago.
3 Category is combined because of small sample size.
4 Category includes persons who are widowed, divorced, separated or married but whose spouse is not living in the household.
5 See chapter 1 footnote 5 for reference containing description of the poverty index.

Note: Percentages are calculated with weights provided by NCHS.
Source: Hispanic Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (January 1987 data file). Data were collected for Mexican-Americans beginning in July 1982 and ending in December 1983, for Cuban-Americans beginning in January 1983 and ending in mid-May 1983, and for Puerto Ricans beginning in mid-May 1983 and ending in December 1984.

APPENDIX B

SURVEY INSTRUMENT: DRUG ABUSE QUESTIONS

The drug abuse questions were asked as section E of the Adult Sample Person Supplement. The questions were labelled as E1 through E20. The alphanumeric labels in parentheses following some responses indicate the question to which the interviewers were directed to skip when respondents gave this particular response. The questions were worded as follows:

E1. Introduction.

Now I have some questions about pills and other drugs you may have used.

(At this point the sample persons were shown a card displaying commonly abused sedatives).

Please have a good look at all of the pills on this card. These pills are barbiturates and other sedatives.

Sometimes doctors prescribe these pills to calm people down during the day or to help them sleep at night. But besides the medical uses, people sometimes take these pills on their own, to help them relax, or just to feel good.

E2. Did you ever take any of these kinds of pills just to see what it was like and how it would work?

Yes No Don't Know

E3. Did you ever take any of these kinds of pill just to enjoy the feeling they give you?

Yes No Don't Know

E4. Did you ever take any of these pills for some other nonmedical reason, and not because you needed it?

Yes No Don't Know

E5. Check Item

No or Don't Know in E2, E3 and E4. (E7)
Other (E6)

E6. When was the most recent time you took any of these for nonmedical reasons?

within the past week
within the past month
within the past 6 months
6 months to a year ago
more than a year ago
more than 2 years ago
more than 5 years ago
Don't Know

E7. How old were you when you first had a chance to try marijuana or hash if you wanted to?

_____ years old
Don't Know
never had a chance (E12)

E8. About how old were you the first time you tried marijuana or hash?

_____ years old
Don't Know
never used (E12)

E9. When was the most recent time you used marijuana or hash?

within the past week
within the past month
within the past 6 months (E11)
6 months to a year ago (E11)
more than a year ago (E11)
more than 2 years ago (E11)
more than 5 years ago (E11)
Don't Know

E10. In the past 30 days, on how many different days did you use marijuana or hash?

____ days.

E11. In your entire life, about how many times have you used marijuana or hash?

1-2 times
3-10 times
11-99 times
100 times or more

E12. Check Item

Age 12-44 (E13)
Age 45+

(At this point sample person aged 45 and older were finished with the drug questions).

E13. Introduction.

The next questions are about inhalants that people sniff or breathe in, to get high or to make them feel good. I am referring to things like lighter fluids, aerosol sprays like PAM, glue, amyl nitrite, "poppers", or locker room odorizers.

E14. How old were you when you first had a chance to try one of these inhalants if you wanted to?

_____ years old
Don't Know
never had a chance (E18)

E15. About how old were you the first time you used one of these inhalants?

_____ years old
Don't Know
never used (E18)

E16. Have you ever used any of the following inhalants for kicks or to get high?

Gasoline or lighter fluid	yes	no
Spray paint	yes	no
Other aerosol sprays	yes	no
"Shoe shine", glue, or toluene	yes	no
Lacquer thinner, other paint solvents	yes	no
Amyl nitrite or poppers	yes	no
Halothane, ether, or other anesthetics	yes	no
Nitrous oxide, whippets	yes	no
"Locker room" odorizers	yes	no

E17. When was the most recent time that you used one of these inhalants to get high or to feel good?

within the past week
within the past month
within the past 6 months
6 months to a year ago
more than a year ago
more than 2 years ago
more than 5 years ago
Don't Know

E18. How old were you when you first had a chance to try cocaine if you wanted to?

_____ years old
Don't Know
never had a chance

(At this point persons replying "never had a chance" were finished with the drug questions).

E19. About how old were you the first time you tried cocaine?

_____ years old
Don't Know
never used

(At this point persons replying "never used" were finished with the drug questions).

E20. When was the most recent time that you used cocaine?

within the past week
within the past month
within the past 6 months
6 months to a year ago
more than a year ago
more than 2 years ago
more than 5 years ago
Don't Know

APPENDIX C

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Crosscultural comparison: A methodological approach emphasizing the comparison of patterns or rules of behavior across two or more cultures or societies.

Cuban-Americans: Dade County, Florida residents who trace their national ancestry to Cuba. Affiliation with this Hispanic subgroup was self-reported. A response to the question on national ancestry of "Cuban" or "Cuban-American" classified individuals as Cuban-Americans. For the purposes of the HHANES this term and all estimates calculated for this population apply only to Cuban-Americans residing in Dade County, Florida.

Drug abuse: For the HHANES the use of marijuana, cocaine or inhalants, or the nonmedical use of sedatives. For the purpose of this definition, nonmedical use of sedatives was described to the respondents as:

> to see what it was like and how it would work; to enjoy the feeling they give you; or for some other nonmedical reason, and not because you needed it.

Ever used (lifetime use): Having used any of the four selected drugs on at least one occasion during an individual's lifetime.

Hispanic-Americans: United States residents who, based on self-report, trace their national ancestry to Mexico (Southwest United States), Puerto Rico (New York City area), or Cuba (Dade County, Florida). See also Cuban-Americans, Mexican-Americans, and Puerto Ricans.

Lifetime frequency of marijuana use: Number of times individuals had used marijuana during their lifetime expressed as one of the following four ranges: 1-2 times, 3-10 times, 11-99 times or 100 or more times.

Mexican-Americans: Residents of the Southwest United States who, based on self-report, trace their national ancestry to Mexico. Affiliation with this Hispanic subgroup was self-reported. A response to the question on national ancestry of "Mexican", "Mexicano", "Chicano" or "Mexican-American" classified individuals as Mexican-Americans. For the purposes of the HHANES this term and all estimates calculated for this population apply only to Mexican-Americans residing in the Southwest United States.

Not past year use: Last use of any of the four selected drugs was more than a year ago from the date of the interview.

Past month use (current use): Last use of any of the four selected drugs was within the thirty days prior to the interview.

Past thirty days use of marijuana, number of days: The number of days within the past thirty days prior to the interview on which marijuana was used, expressed as one of the following four ranges: 1-4 days, 5-14 days, 15-27 days and 28-30 days.

Past year use: Last use of any of the four selected drugs in the past year prior to the interview, but not including the past month prior to the interview. See also past month use.

Primary Sampling Unit (PSU): Counties or small groups of contiguous counties with a 1980 Hispanic population of at least 1,000. Selection of PSUs was the first stage in the process of defining the sample.

Puerto Ricans Residents of the New York City area who, based on self-report, trace their national ancestry to Puerto Rico. Affiliation with this Hispanic subgroup was self-reported. A response to the question on national ancestry of "Boricuan", or "Puerto Rican" classified individuals as Puerto Ricans. For the purposes of the HHANES this term and all estimates calculated for this population apply only to Puerto Ricans residing in the New York City area.

Recency of use: One of the following three periods during which any of the four selected drugs were last used: past month, past year (but not past month), and not past year. See also the definitions for these terms.

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